

# MERRIMACK

SUMMER 2019



***ENGAGING • ENLIGHTENING • EMPOWERING***

Merrimack's **Mission** and the **Community**

# MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Summer 2019

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MERRIMACK  
COLLEGE



Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

I am pleased to share that Merrimack College continues to thrive. We are fortunate to be celebrating growth and tremendous success and, even more powerful, is that our accomplishments are fueled by staying true to our mission: to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives.

This fall, Merrimack will enroll our largest freshman class from across the United States and the world. The size and diversity of our incoming class speaks to the powerful appeal to students and their families of Merrimack's mission, and particularly our tradition of service to community. Students come here for

knowledge but also to develop their talent for putting that knowledge to use for the greater good — to make the world better for everyone.

Our unique approach to providing a stellar experience in the classroom paired with learning and growing outside of the classroom through our community partners is what makes Merrimack unique.

This issue shares some of the stories of how our faculty, students, staff and alumni are making a difference in lives, communities and organizations while drawing out their passion for learning. There has never been a time to be prouder to be a Warrior and I thank you for your continued support of our endeavors.

Best,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.  
President



**In this edition:**

**2** Early College Program Changing Lives

**13** Nursing Center: Construction Begins on New Building in North Campus

**16** Congrats to the Class of 2019

**22** Together for Good: Donor Profiles

**26** Alumni News

“Not only will [the Early College] Program change the lives of Lawrence students and the future of Lawrence, but this program will also change the face of Merrimack.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

**On the cover:** Early College Program students (left to right) Gianni Vargas, Erika Castillo, Jeffrey Nguyen get a head start on higher education at Merrimack. Photo by Marvin Sandoval M'17.



Early College student Nayeli Urena focuses on Mike Piatelli's biology lecture.



# A PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP

Merrimack is changing lives through its  
Early College Program with Lawrence Public Schools

Article by Susan Greco | Photos by Marvin Sandoval M'17

Kyannah Hernandez screamed and screamed when she got the letter announcing she is being awarded a Pioneer Scholarship to Merrimack College.

“I re-read the letter three times, then called my mother, my father, my principal and sent them all a screenshot of my acceptance letter,” she said. “I felt like the world couldn’t give me any battle that I couldn’t handle.”

Merrimack is in the vanguard of colleges helping under-served high school students overcome impediments to higher education through the Massachusetts Early College initiative, providing the opportunity to take college courses while still in the security of high school.

Merrimack is the only private college in Massachusetts to have received state recognition for the work it does providing access to college for under-served high school students from the surrounding area at no cost to their families.

“Not only will this program change the lives of Lawrence students and the future of Lawrence,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, “but this program will further advance our efforts to provide access to college.”

President Hopey announced in January that the College will award 10 full scholarships through the Pioneer Scholarship fund to graduates of the Early College Program. He envisions having 40 Pioneer Scholars in four years.

“The financial burden of going to college is a real thing... a lot of kids in Lawrence are first generation kids going to college and it can be overwhelming,” said Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey C. Riley. “So Merrimack stepping up and supporting our kids has been nothing short of a blessing.”

Merrimack’s carefully crafted Early College Program is a collaboration between the College and Abbott Lawrence Academy (ALA) in nearby Lawrence, Massachusetts.

“These kids really are pioneers and changing the trajectory of students in Lawrence,” said Stacey Ciprich, ALA’s founding principal. “The Early College Program is changing the conversations in the city.”

## ‘THIS IS HAPPENING — GO BUILD IT’

Riley H’18 was then-superintendent and receiver of Lawrence Public Schools three years ago when he conceived the idea of bringing the program to Lawrence. As with many innovative ideas in life, Riley was met with reluctance for the program until proposing it to President Hopey.

Calling President Hopey a “hero of our time” for his immediate adoption of the idea, Riley noted that, “President Hopey readily accepted and said he’d do anything he could to help our kids.” At a ceremony for graduating ALA seniors in May, Riley told attendees, “that it was part of the mission

of the College; it was part of their faith to help everyone and to make sure everyone had a chance. So I'm only here to say thank you to Dr. Hopey...as well as all of the staff at Merrimack that helped make this program a reality."

At the same time he was introducing the idea to President Hopey, Riley also had to sell it to Ciprich, even though ALA was only a year old and its students are among the best and brightest in the Lawrence Public Schools.

"He said, 'this is happening — go build it,'" Ciprich recalled, laughing at the memory. "Nothing like this had ever been done with a private college. ALA had never been done." She quickly learned the two schools share core values around education and community service.

Russ Olwell, associate dean of Merrimack's School of Education and Social Policy, and the College faculty worked alongside Ciprich and her staff to shape the program.

Merrimack and ALA launched Early College in the fall of 2017 with about 60 high school juniors. Amazingly, it has already grown from just two classes at Merrimack to 10.

As high school juniors, the students stay together as a cohort to take one class a semester at Merrimack, including intro to biology and intro to U.S. politics. Despite being in high school, the class syllabi stays the same.

The high schoolers also attend classes at ALA that complement and support the College curriculum. Merrimack professors hold office hours on both campuses and build strong working relationships with ALA teachers, who sit in on the Merrimack classes.

The following year, as high school seniors, the ALA students in Early College enroll in either intro to engineering or intro to psychology, mainly as a cohort, though some Merrimack students mix in with the engineering class. They still have supporting teachers back at ALA as a backup.

By the spring semester, they are largely on their own, enrolling in selected classes with Merrimack students.

## Q&A

## MEET THE PIONEER SCHOLARS

Four Early College students gathered to share their experiences at Merrimack. Rising senior **Amarlyn Martinez** is taking biology and will apply to the College in the fall. Recent ALA graduates **Helen Vasquez**, **Freddy Monroy** and **Kyannah Hernandez** have accepted full rides to attend Merrimack next year as Pioneer Scholars.

**Q:** When you first heard about Early College at Merrimack, what did you think?

**Helen:** It made me really proud of Lawrence. It's opening doors for a lot of us.

**Freddy:** I thought this is unheard of. I was in a program where I went to MIT on Saturdays, and my peers from other schools were taking three AP classes as sophomores. But when I told them I get to go to a private college my junior year, they were shocked. I felt privileged to get this, especially since my sister went to Merrimack.

**Kyannah:** I wanted to see college life while still a high school student. I'm grateful for having the best of both worlds.

**Amarlyn:** I never thought I'd be taking college classes as a junior.

**Q:** What is the most surprising thing you've experienced on campus?

**Freddy:** It's amazing to see diversity. Lawrence is mainly Hispanic. When we all go to college, it won't be as shocking.

**Helen:** I fell in love with the campus and with the people. The professors are really engaged with you and want you to succeed.

**Amarlyn:** A college tour is not the same thing as taking classes. You get off the bus, and you're responsible for yourself. This is teaching us what we have to do in college.

**Q:** What's it like taking classes with Merrimack students?

**Kyannah:** Being mixed in with 15 Merrimack freshmen in my prob and stats class, I can see how we're all at the same level, getting ideas from each other and learning together. I used to be really scared of asking for help. Now when I'm with college students and I hear them whispering, I just raise my hand and say, 'We're all struggling here.' I'm more comfortable now.

**Freddy:** For intro to business, there are only five students from ALA and about 25 Merrimack students. There's no supporting class at ALA. I have to reach out to the professor when I have questions just like a regular college student.

**"I get to see how life is going to be for the next four years."** HELEN

## MERRIMACK EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

81%

FIRST GENERATION TO ATTEND COLLEGE.

63%  
female

84%  
Hispanic students

98%

Student retention from fall '18 to spring '19.

43%

of 70 high school seniors earned A's in fall '18.



“They move from being in classes with their school peers to being in a class with Merrimack students,” Olwell said. “We tried to find classes they wanted that are the first step toward a number of pathways or majors.” To that end, the classes include calculus, intro to human development, computer science and business.

Students earn up to 20 college credits at no cost to their families; and as a bonus, Early College provides a richer experience than the typical dual-credit arrangements offered after-hours at community colleges.

“It’s a unique model. I don’t know of another program nationally that does the same thing,” Olwell said.

#### COLLEGE BOOT CAMP

Even with layers of support, going to college as a high schooler is still intimidating. So the preparation starts almost immediately at ALA. Freshmen tour Merrimack

and hear about the program. Sophomores visit the College twice. “Sophomore year is the boot camp to get them ready for Merrimack,” said Ciprich.

“They come in as the best and brightest of their middle schools and then we have to [free] them [from] their perfectionism.” What students hear over and over is to ask for help when needed and turn in the assigned work.

Not every student is ready for the rigor but the majority are; since the start two years ago, about 140 of 192 ALA juniors and seniors have participated, along with two seniors and four juniors from Lawrence High School (LHS). About 98% have stuck with it. Olwell said the program can handle up to 200 students per year.

Classroom work can be lively. Especially with biology lecturer Mike Piatelli.

“Are any of you clones of your parents?” asked Piatelli.

**64**

High school juniors enrolled 2017–18.

**145**

High school juniors, seniors enrolled 2018–19.

**16 CREDITS**

Earned by most high school seniors. Eleven earned 20 credits.

**\$2.4 MILLION**

Value of 10 Pioneer Scholarships over four years, given to top Early College students.

**23**

Merrimack faculty and staff involved.

**13**

Lawrence teachers and district staff involved.

**2.1 MILES**

Lawrence High School to Merrimack.

“Noooo,” came the chorus of 35 intro to biology students.

On this April morning, class started with students drawing huge diagrams of the phases of meiosis on the board, while Piatelli dashed from group to group. As the professor attempted to draw a model of genetic recombination, he apologized — “I’m going to draw it terribly.”

Students laughed even as Piatelli led them into deeper thought with quips like, “Now I’m going to blow your mind even further.” His approach was vindicated when a student suddenly asked, “What is the starting cell to create egg cells?”

“That’s a great question,” said Piatelli, smiling.

He’s known for his highly interactive lecture style, stressing group work and thought-provoking case studies. And this day was no different. The case of the Olympic athlete stripped of her medal after failing a biological gender test prompted a debate on male and female defining characteristics.

They wrapped up with a startling stat. “You could have been any one of 8 million different people!” Piatelli shouted. “Did I blow your mind again?”

Really, it was Piatelli who was amazed.

“It’s their first biology class ever and it’s at a college sophomore level. They’re mostly 16, 17 years old, so to reach that level of cognition is remarkable,” he said. “They are a true gift to me as an educator. What they give me is a sense of how important it is to have more opportunities to learn.”

Kaitlin Dinét, ALA’s founding biology teacher, fills in content gaps between Piatelli’s lectures and labs. “Mike’s an amazing professor,” said Dinét. “He’s also been a great mentor to me.”

She said the kids thrive on topics geared to their interests. “A lot of students are interested in biology after professor Piatelli’s class, just as they are excited about politics and government after professor Lovett’s class,” noted Dinét.

Part of her job is to model appropriate ways to interact with professors and to work with teams of students. And how to handle disappointment.

“I struggled in biology a lot,” admitted Hernandez, the student who’d screamed when she learned of getting a Pioneer Scholarship. “Having Ms. Dinét here to walk

me through and having the classes go hand in hand, there was never a time I felt lost. The support class made a big difference.”

Piatelli shared that many students who struggled at first made huge strides by end of term. “There were so many turnaround stories.” Developing grit is good for the mind and soul. Maybe that’s why students who participate in Early College are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college and earn a degree than their peers who did not have the same opportunity.

#### ‘MERRIMACK IS PART OF THE FAMILY’

Trust is a big part of the partnership between ALA and Merrimack. So is engaging hearts. “Our school functions as a family and we have that trust like a family would,” said Ciprich. “Merrimack professors have become part of that extended family, and the kids feel that.”

Another secret to success is that Abbott Lawrence is only four years old and has the agility to change with its needs. It’s the kind of school where they start an engineering club, as they did this past year, and two weeks later students are battling in a robotics competition.

These students have experienced that hard things are possible, even when they are scared to death at first. State Rep. Tram T. Nguyen can relate. In March, she spoke to Early College students in a politics class about her recent election to state office. In an interview, she stressed the importance of preparing immigrant groups for higher education. “As

the first person in my family to go to college, I was lost. My parents didn’t know what to tell me. I was thrilled to learn about Merrimack’s Early College Program. The program should be replicated, and I commend Merrimack and Abbott Lawrence Academy for doing this.”

Even with all the preparation and support, it was a big unknown whether the ALA students would continue to fare well once they moved into classes with Merrimack students.

The test came spring semester when 70 seniors — 68 ALA and two LHS — started to mix with Merrimack students in classes across campus. On his first day in intro to business with 25 Merrimack students, Freddy Monroy admitted to feeling lost. “The first class we walked in five minutes late because of the bus and most of the seats were taken, so the five ALA students



Professor Mike Piatelli





Gianni Vargas

were spread out throughout the room,” he recalled. “To see all those shocked faces when they learned we’re high school seniors. And the professor said, ‘Oh, I have ALA students? I’ve only heard the best about you guys!’ We were kind of put on a pedestal.” He didn’t mind.

All of this is getting them ready for the day they will leave home and high school for real. “Going to college is so scary. You really do have to start all over,” ALA rising senior Amarlyn Martinez said. “So just to get that experience of how to meet new people” is really valuable.

Tons of practice at being a college student has eased their anxiety. “Honestly, I’m excited for next year,” she said. “I know I’m going to be scared. Everything intimidates me at first, but then I’m all for it and I end up loving it.”

“I love going to Merrimack,” said Martinez. She admitted to being initially scared to get on the bus to campus, but quickly grew comfortable. “I look forward to it. I have learned so much at Merrimack it’s honestly so shocking.”

#### ‘I FOUND WHERE I BELONGED’

All along, the hope and the prayer was that the first group of high schoolers would graduate from the program feeling enlightened, engaged and empowered.

At the admitted student reception in early April, Hernandez felt like she had shed an old skin. “I felt like a new person. I was able to meet new people through the student confidential in the chapel; we were talking and just getting to know one another.”

At that moment she felt a “this is the one” connection with Merrimack College. “I found where I belonged.”

Merrimack is launching a fundraising initiative to raise a \$20 million endowment to support the Pioneer Scholars long-term. In addition to covering tuition and book fees, these funds will be used to help students academically with tutoring, mentoring, internships and other programs.

“The generosity of our donors is making a difference for the students and faculty at Merrimack College,” President Hopey said. “We had enormous success in meeting the fundraising goals of the *Together for Good* Campaign for many strategic initiatives on campus, but we have much more to do. Creating an endowment for the Pioneer Scholars will continue to build upon the impact that Merrimack is having on the community.” ■

## SUPPORTING EARLY COLLEGE & THE PIONEER SCHOLARSHIPS

Merrimack College stands out as the first private college raising an endowment to provide full scholarships annually for 10 Early College students.

Marjorie Ringrose, senior program officer at the Smith Family Foundation in Newton, praised Merrimack for its leadership. “Merrimack is the first private college in Massachusetts to embrace Early College as a strategy to serve a diverse body of students with an affordable, high quality private education.”

“We hope Merrimack College’s leadership will encourage many more private colleges to embrace Early College,” she added.

A **Smith Family Foundation** grant to Lawrence Public Schools helped the city kick off its Early College Program with Merrimack. Now Merrimack seeks to fund 10 annual Pioneer Scholarships in perpetuity. Investments in the Pioneer Scholars initiative can be in any amount — an endowment or current-use gift.

To support the initial Scholar cohort, Merrimack aims to raise \$300,000 by the end of 2019.

For more information about supporting this program, please contact **Christina Novak, Office of Development and Alumni Relations**, at [novakc@merrimack.edu](mailto:novakc@merrimack.edu) or **978-837-5417**.



MORE THAN A HELPING HAND

# HANDS TO HELP

MAKES CONNECTIONS, SERVES COMMUNITY'S GREATEST NEEDS

**W**hen the Merrimack Valley gas disaster struck last September, Hands to Help quickly mobilized to support the South Lawrence residents who were left without shelter, heat or cooking fuel for up to four months. Whether staff and volunteers were helping process claims paperwork, collecting sleeping bags so that children had a warm place to sleep or using donations to buy residents restaurant gift cards, they worked tirelessly alongside other organizations in Lawrence to respond to a disaster outside of their typical program offerings.

For Safinaz Aiad of Lawrence, Hands to Help was the first place she sought out after her family was affected by the gas disaster, after having formed relationships with staff and student volunteers in its tutoring program.

"Hands to Help is a very important office for my kids and me. I have been

a client since it opened and the many services have changed my family's life for the better," she said.

"The staff, as well as the volunteers, are very welcoming. They make the tutoring program an overall great learning experience for the kids. I hope this office stays here forever so that other families can also be positively impacted."

"It was definitely a stressful time, and we tried to keep our office open as much as possible because we knew how much of a need there was," said Alisha Reppucci '12, then-director of community outreach and special projects for the Office of Mission and Ministry.

In 2015, Hands to Help started a partnership with St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Lawrence to provide a wide variety of services to the city, including tutoring, summer programs, tax assistance, referrals to

agencies for housing, family support, and one-on-one help for residents seeking access to health insurance, ESL classes and other types of assistance.

*An initiative of President Christopher Hopey, the organization was supported by Merrimack to serve the people of Lawrence in a more sustained, organized way,* said Fr. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president of mission and ministry.

"In July 2014, the president and I had lunch with the parish priests, and we asked them how we could be of most help to them. We conceived the idea of a community outreach center, funded by the College to work collaboratively with the parish," he said. "Six months later we hired Alisha, who started networking and making connections to figure out what the needs really are."

Hands to Help has since expanded from a group of students and two graduate fellows to a large group of student and community volunteers, now led by Director Rosana Urbaez M'16. Each year an average of 17 O'Brien and Austin Scholarship students tutor a cohort of 50 children in various subjects. About 20 percent of the students speak primarily Spanish, but within six months to a year of tutoring, most become fluent in English, thanks to the tutoring program.





“A lot of students elect to come back year after year, which helps build that relationship,” Reppucci said. “Some of the students have known these kids for four years and have watched them grow up.”

Gina DiFelice '21, a rising junior human development and human services major, became involved with Hands to Help through the Austin Scholars program. She has served as a tutor for the past two years, helping elementary school children master math, science, English and history. Building relationships with students and watching them make progress inspires her to come back.

**“Hands to Help has opened my eyes to the needs of children and their families. It has given me a better idea of what I want to do with my career after college and how impactful service can be,”** DiFelice said.

Steven Francisco '20, a rising senior majoring in business administration, who has served as a tutor for the past three years through the O'Brien

Scholarship, said that the experience has given him the opportunity to become a mentor to children who need it the most.

“I’ve learned that these children might not have the same resources that other children and families may have, however they still strive to be the best students they can be and achieve their future goals,” he said.

Aside from tutoring, Hands to Help has spearheaded and grown other key programs.

- Since 2015, it has partnered with Merrimack’s Financial Capability Center to offer free tax help. Through this partnership more than 112 tax returns have been submitted, not including taxes filed this past spring.
- Events such as the School Supply Drive and Toy Distribution (held in July and December) have grown to distribute 500 packs of school supplies, 282 toys and more than \$2,000 in gift cards in 2019 alone.
- In the spring, the organization hosts an Easter egg hunt for the homeless shelter, Casa Nueva Vida, which serves more than 100 people.

Service is ingrained in the culture of Merrimack and has been for a long time, even though it has changed shape over the decades. Exposure to clients served by Hands to Help programs positively impacts the way in which students view the world around them, said Fr. Ray.

“First, they begin to change their understanding of who they are as a person in relationship to their neighbors, and what that might invite and call them to,” he said.

“Instead of seeing how different they are, they begin to see how similar they are.” ■



## COOKING WITH PURPOSE IN THE **CAMPUS KITCHEN**

One afternoon during spring semester, while classmates were eating lunch at Sparky's, five members of Merrimack's community nutrition class were in one corner of the kitchen slicing and dicing vegetables for roasting.

They were preparing nutritious meals for the hungry in nearby Lawrence as part of the Campus Kitchen program that works to ease the suffering of the underfed.

**“Campus Kitchen is student-led so it allows students to apply what they learn in class to communities in need,”** said Kyle McInnis, former School of Health Sciences dean and current vice president for learning and innovation.

Campus Kitchen is a national program that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger and food waste in their communities. Undergraduates Lauren McCarthy '16 and Amy Byrne '16 founded the Merrimack chapter of Campus Kitchen under the Office of Campus Ministry in 2015, with the help of Fr. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A. and School of Health Sciences assistant professor Michael Corcoran. The School of Health Sciences assumed responsibility from Campus Ministry and hired graduate fellows to lead the program in 2017.

During the 2018–2019 school year, volunteers from Campus Kitchen at Merrimack prepared food to donate to the YMCA on Tuesdays and the restaurant-style food kitchen Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence on Thursdays.

The program recovered 1,124 pounds of donated food in the month of February



Student volunteers with Campus Kitchen accept donations of leftover foods that would otherwise be thrown out and prepare them for nutritious meals that are served to the food-insecure in Lawrence.

alone, said Tashanna Brown M'19, a graduate student in Health and Wellness Management who was in charge of the program this past year.

“Food is donated by Sodexo, which manages food service at Merrimack, and the Stop & Shop grocery store in North Andover contributes fruits and vegetables,” said Nicole Ferzoco '19, a nutrition major from Millis, Massachusetts, who is the project coordinator and research assistant.

Tia Rotolico '20, a health science major from Minot, Maine, took part in Campus Kitchen for the service learning component of the community nutrition class — but her passion for the work went beyond the classroom. “It's a part of my values, the way I grew up,”

she said, “especially being at a Catholic school, so service has been a staple of my education.”

**It's so easy to take part and the need is so great,** that it was hard to turn her back on the program, said Kathleen Martyn '19, a nutrition major also from Millis, Massachusetts. “There are so many food insecure people,” Martyn said. “Why not help?”

“They are amazing,” said Damian Zedower, the executive chef for Sodexo at Merrimack, said of the students. “They are the hardest workers here.” ■

# COME BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



## CAREER-FOCUSED MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Girard School of Business

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- Accounting, M.S. (online)
- Business Analytics, Graduate Certificate (online)
- Business Analytics, M.S. (online)
- Data Science and Business Analytics, M.S. (online)
- Management, M.S.

### School of Education and Social Policy

- Catholic School Leadership, Graduate Certificate
- Community Engagement, M.Ed.
- Criminology & Criminal Justice, M.S.
- Educational Leadership, C.A.G.S.
- Higher Education, M.Ed.
- School Counseling, M.Ed.
- Teacher Education, M.Ed.
- Teacher Education, M.Ed. (online)

### School of Liberal Arts

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.S.
- Public Affairs, M.P.A.
- Spiritual Direction, M.A.
- Spirituality, M.A.
- Spiritual Direction, Graduate Certificate
- Interfaith Spirituality, Graduate Certificate

### School of Science and Engineering

- Civil Engineering, M.S.
- Data Science, Graduate Certificate (online)
- Data Science, M.S. (online)
- Data Science and Business Analytics, Graduate Certificate (online)
- Engineering Management, M.S.
- Mechanical Engineering, M.S.

### School of Health Sciences

- Athletic Training, M.S.
- Community Health Education, M.S.
- Exercise and Sport Science, M.S.
- Health and Wellness Management, M.S.

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MERRIMACK  
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## MAKING A CONNECTION IN THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION



Prof. Aiello



Prof. Duffy-Comparone

**Bringing college courses to inmates** broadens their world and gives Merrimack College students and professors unique insight into what it's like to learn inside jail walls, said Brittne Aiello, associate professor of criminology.

Aiello first taught a non-credit course to inmates at the Middleton House of Correction in fall 2016. Since then, her program has grown to include credit-bearing courses such as drugs and society, institutions and inequality and intro to creative writing — giving inmates the opportunity to earn college credit while they are incarcerated. Along with Emma Duffy-Comparone, an assistant professor of English who began teaching at the jail for the first time in fall 2018, Aiello's program has reached 39 inmates over the past two years. This past spring, 15 inmates enrolled in Duffy-Comparone's intro to creative writing course.

The program has also given real-world experience to the 10 Merrimack College students who have earned credit by working as teaching assistants. Most have been undergraduate or graduate criminology students, hand-selected based on their maturity, open-mindedness, writing ability and experience with course material, Aiello said.

"It's important for us to serve and share our strengths with those in our community," said Aiello, who was inspired to start her program as an extension of her research on women's units in jails. "There's a lot of hidden talent and untapped potential."

Mary Teresa Cuzzupe '19, who double majored in criminology and criminal justice and economics and social justice, began working as a teaching assistant in Duffy-Comparone's intro to creative writing class in fall 2018. This past semester, she continued to help inmates with their assignments, answer questions and support them in the computer lab. Inmates are very appreciative of the opportunity to learn and are active participants in class, she said. Some have even indicated that they intend to continue taking college courses after they have completed their sentences, thanks to their positive experiences with the program.

"It's really been a great opportunity to take what I've learned within the classroom and bring that to a real-life application," Cuzzupe said. It has given her insight "into what else needs to be done in terms of the services we provide to this population."

Duffy-Comparone, who said she has always had an interest in teaching inmates, learned a lot about her students while teaching intro to creative writing, where she encourages inmates to write about their personal experiences.

"I love teaching creative writing because it's about helping people find a voice and an outlet to tell their story," she said. "Even to feel that your story is worth telling in the first place, and worth listening to — that's something a lot of my incarcerated students probably haven't felt in a while. So in a jail setting especially, I think the value of learning how to write creatively goes beyond just the nuts and bolts of it."

Jail staff carefully screen inmates before they can enroll in a course. They must meet specific educational requirements and have a sentence length that allows them to complete a class. They are also required to fill out an application that asks them to explain the reason for their interest in taking a college course and what type of job they envision for themselves in the future, Aiello said.

Jason Faro, assistant superintendent of the Essex County Sheriff's Department and director of programming at the jail, said he is appreciative of the significant contributions made by Merrimack staff and teaching assistants as well as financial support from the College.

"We have a robust education program that offers students access to obtaining their high school equivalency credential. However, this partnership is the only opportunity for students to experience true college-level work," Faro said. "I have had the pleasure to observe students develop as college students and understand their education potential. Witnessing students engage with the course material, process at various levels and ultimately achieve their personal goals has been amazing. I appreciate the College's understanding of this population, and our agency's mission in offering opportunity toward personal growth."

Merrimack College's Provost Innovation Fund Grants (2015, 2018) and a Faculty Development Grant (2016) provided initial funding for the program, and a grant from the Howland Gardiner Shaw Foundation (\$10,000) funded the program for the 2018-2019 academic year, Aiello said.

**"It's really been a great opportunity to take what I've learned within the classroom and bring that to a real-life application."** MARY TERESA CUZZUPE '19

## NURSING CENTER SIGN OF GROWTH, MANIFESTATION OF MISSION



**To the rousing cheers** of hundreds of students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and local officials, Merrimack College broke ground on its new Nursing Center May 1, preparing to serve future generations of students and a regional population with ever-expanding healthcare needs.

“Here, we will engage hearts, we will enlighten minds, and we will teach generations of Merrimack students to empower lives — their own lives and the lives of their patients,” said President Christopher E. Hohey.

The Nursing Center, one of the final buildings in the North Campus Academic Development that includes North Residential Village, Crowe Hall, the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center, the Sanctuary Coffeehouse and the Honors program, will have two floors of laboratories, classrooms, study space and

faculty offices. It will support a variety of health sciences programs for undergraduate and graduate students.

“We will admit our first class of nursing students for fall of 2019, and the Nursing Center will greatly enhance that program as it continues to grow,” President Hohey said. “The School of Health Sciences, and in particular nursing, have great potential for growth because they speak directly to students’ desire to build lives and careers on service to others.”

The Nursing Center is expected to open in spring 2020.

“I am proud today to take part in the next step in Merrimack College’s change and growth,” said Alfred J. Arcidi, Jr. ’84, P’06, M’17, ’18, chairman of the College’s board of trustees and senior vice president of the multistate Whittier Health Network.

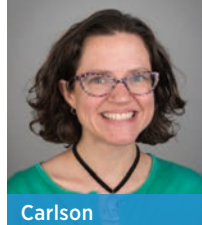
The progress of construction can be followed via a time-lapse camera at [www.merrimack.edu/mc-nursing](http://www.merrimack.edu/mc-nursing)

## COLLEGE GRANTS TENURE TO NINE MEMBERS OF FACULTY

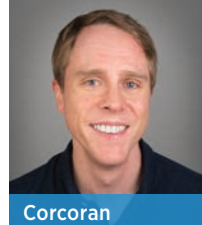
Earlier this year, President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., approved the recommendations of the Appointment, Rank and Tenure (ART) Committee to grant tenure to nine faculty members.

The ART Committee concluded that the faculty members met the standards set for tenure and appointment as associate professors, including teaching effectiveness, scholarly and related professional achievements, and community service.

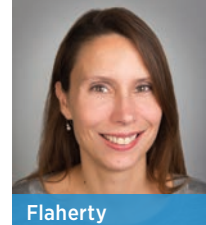
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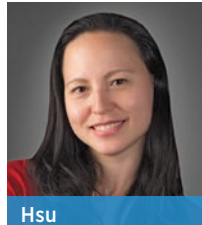
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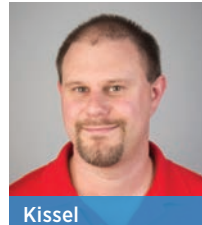
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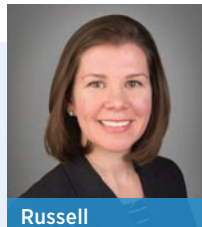
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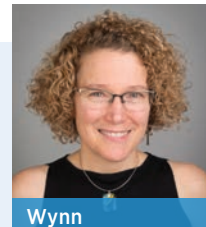
Perks



Russell



Tollison



Wynn

▶ **CYNTHIA CARLSON**, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in civil engineering.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned her Ph.D. in natural resources and earth systems science from the University of New Hampshire.
- Awards and honors include: 2008 Senior Fellowship in the Environmental Leadership Program; 2003 New Hampshire Young Engineer of the Year from the New Hampshire Joint Engineering Board; 2001 EPA Individual Merit Award from EPA Region 1.

▶ **MICHAEL CORCORAN**, promoted from assistant to associate professor in public health and nutrition.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2013.
- Earned his Ph.D. in cellular and molecular nutrition from Tufts University.
- Awards and honors: Recipient of the National Research Service Award for Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease and the recipient of many grants.

▶ **ANNE FLAHERTY**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, and associate director of the Master of Public Affairs Program.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned her Ph.D. in political science from Duke University.

▶ **LAURA HSU**, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of human development and human services.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2012.
- Earned her Ed.D. from Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- Awards and honors: Inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa; has delivered the annual Last Lecture.

▶ **ZACHARY KISSEL**, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in computer science.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2011 as an adjunct, 2012 full time.
- Earned his Ph.D. from University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

▶ **LISA PERKS**, associate professor in communication and media.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin.
- Awards and honors: Presented on two top paper panels at the National Communication Association Convention; received 2018–2019 Faculty Development Grant.

▶ **ALISON RUSSELL**, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor in political science.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2014.
- Earned her Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.
- Awards and honors: Recipient of the 2018 Sidney D. Drell Award from the Intelligence and National Security Alliance; author of two books, including *Cyber Blockades and Strategic A2/AD in Cyberspace*.

▶ **ANDREW TOLLISON**, promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of communication in communication and media.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2012.
- Earned his Ph.D. in communication studies with an emphasis in health communication from the University of Texas, Austin.
- Awards and honors: 2018 Anthony J. Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (SCURA) grant recipient with co-investigator Lisa Perks for the project “Coping Through the Cancer Diagnosis Process;” 2017 Top Paper Award from the Southern States Communication Association Annual Conference Interpersonal Communication Division.

▶ **NANCY WYNN**, associate professor in visual and performing arts.

- Joined Merrimack College in 2015.
- Earned her M.F.A. from the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School.
- Awards and honors: The Design Incubation Colloquia at Merrimack College; the FATE Conference; numerous academic publications; and exhibits at the Clare Gallery in Hartford, Connecticut.





## TWO RETIRE FROM FULL-TIME FACULTY RANKS

Merrimack College honored two retiring members of the faculty at this year's annual Faculty Retirement Dinner: **Catherine Rich-Duval**, of the Girard School of Business; and **Azara Santiago Rivera**, of the School of Liberal Arts.

Associate professor Rich-Duval was the first woman tenured in Merrimack College's Marketing Department, in 1994, and served 27 years as adviser to the College's chapter of the American Marketing Association.

A native of Saugus, Massachusetts, she earned her B.S.B.A. in marketing at Boston College, M.B.A. at Suffolk University and C.A.M.S. in marketing and international business at Babson College, and took doctoral courses at Southern New Hampshire University.

Rich-Duval has worked as creative department manager for Kenyon & Eckhardt Advertising; assistant director of foreign trade programs for the Massachusetts Port Authority; instructor at Bentley University;

and executive trainer at David Rogers and Associates. She has been a Massachusetts state-certified woman business enterprise (WBE) and small business enterprise (SBE).

Professor Santiago Rivera was the founding director of Merrimack's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program in the Psychology Department.

She earned her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and is credentialed as a national certified counselor by the National Board of Certified Counselors.

Prior to joining Merrimack in 2016, she served as dean of academic affairs at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, having previously been chair of its Counseling Department. She was associate dean of the School of Education at the University of Albany, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and associate professor at the University of Albany.

Her research has focused on multicultural issues in counseling, bilingual therapy, Latinos and depression, the impact of environmental contamination on the biopsychological well-being of Native Americans, and the effects of sociocultural and economic stressors on the psychological well-being of recent Latino immigrants.



## SELF-STUDY SUPPORTS MERRIMACK'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Vice Provost of Institutional Effectiveness Jon Lyon

**Merrimack College this year** finished an exhaustive year-long self-study of its community involvement that buttresses support for its long-standing commitment to

engaging area communities in a "mutually beneficial" exchange of information and resources through its students, faculty, staff and alumni.

"The College was able to compile and highlight the diverse range of community-engaged activities across the entire campus, both academic and co-curricular," said

Vice Provost of Institutional Effectiveness Jon Lyon. "The self-study has illustrated the value of, and necessity for, continuous cross-campus collaboration and coordination as we move forward with service and community-engaged commitments."

For the self-study's purposes, community engagement describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge and resources in the context of partnership and reciprocity, Lyon said. The study involved collecting data and documentation on the aspects of Merrimack's mission, service and community-engaged commitments as well as several reflective conversations on where the College has been, where it is now and where it is going.

While self-studies such as these help institutions better align institutional and community resources to benefit residents, students and faculty, such efforts also offer the opportunity to benchmark the work and outcomes against other community-engaged institutions across the country.

**"The College was able to compile and highlight the diverse range of community-engaged activities across the entire campus, both academic and co-curricular."**

VICE PROVOST OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS JON LYON

## COMMENCEMENT RECAP

### CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2019

Keynote speaker Jeff Selingo advised graduates at Merrimack College's 69th Commencement exercises May 19 to expect unexpected career paths that will lead them to surprisingly rewarding opportunities.

Merrimack awarded bachelor's degrees to 770 undergraduate students and master's degrees to 486 graduate students inside Duane Stadium. Altogether, students were from 32 states, and 67 were legacy students (those with family who had preceded them at Merrimack).

Undergraduate speaker Paige Sorenson '19 of Plymouth, Minnesota, who majored in music and environmental studies with minors in biology and social justice while playing for the women's hockey team, reflected on how the past four years have shaped her classmates and prepared them for the twists and turns in their futures.

"As we close this chapter of our lives and begin to craft a brand new one, there will be many more firsts to come," Sorenson said. "Whether you are furthering your education, pursuing a professional career or choosing to take an alternate path in life, it should be comforting to know that Merrimack has prepared us to be successful in our pursuits."

Graduate speaker Samantha Guerra '17, M'19 of Groton, Massachusetts, who earned a master's degree in mental health counseling, urged her schoolmates not to downplay their personal challenges and to look for help when they feel as if pressure is building on them. "Embrace family, friends, professors, advisors and the like to gather around you to support and encourage you," she said.

For more great Commencement photos, please visit [www.merrimack.edu/grad-gallery](http://www.merrimack.edu/grad-gallery)





## SEEKING GOD TOGETHER: OUR JOINT UNDERTAKING

By Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.



**Our religious community,** the Order of St. Augustine, was established in the 13th century, inspired by the spiritual insight and teaching of St. Augustine. We are one of the several mendicant orders of the Church whose members seek to live out our Christian vocation of love for God and neighbor in the fashion of St. Augustine, in

communion of life and service. We are active contemplatives, called to impart to others the gifts we have received. To seek God together is our common project; to share our discovery of God is our joint undertaking.

Our province bears the title of St. Thomas of Villanova, and was established by friars who came to the United States from Ireland. These friars arrived in 1796 with the intention of laying the foundation of the order here while assisting in the missionary work of the Church. Over time, as native-born Americans entered the order and additional friars from abroad arrived, the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova was formally founded in 1874. The province continued to experience such growth that it was able to respond to many invitations of bishops to establish new communities in various areas throughout the country. From this expansion two new provinces were eventually formed, one in the Midwest, the other in California.

The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova today, comprising communities on the east coast, is composed of 154 friars who are involved in a variety of ministries. Our commitment to the apostolate of education finds us engaged presently in four educational institutions: Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania; Merrimack College; St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, New Jersey; and Malvern Preparatory School, in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Historically, however, the province also founded and staffed several other institutions: Universidad de Santo Tomás de Villanueva in Cuba; Biscayne College/St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida; Augustinian Academy, Staten Island, New York; and Austin Preparatory School, North Reading, Massachusetts.

The province also cares for 10 parishes in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, some of them in inner-city ministries. In addition, the province also staffs the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia and foreign missions in Japan and Peru. Friars are engaged, as well, in preaching and retreat ministry, justice and peace initiatives, prison ministry, spiritual direction and in the administration of the order.

Our friars work collaboratively with lay men and women in all our ministries. A unique opportunity for collaboration in community and ministry with young people is through the Augustinian Volunteers: recent college graduates who feel called to spend a year in service to others while living in an intentional community and committing to personal and spiritual development. This year, 12 Augustinian Volunteers are serving with local community partners for 40 to 50 hours a week in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, San Diego, California and Ventura, California. Aside from being placed in one of the four domestic communities, volunteers also have the opportunity to serve internationally in Chulucanas, Peru.

While our engagement in educational and parish ministries is well-known, less so, perhaps, is our work on behalf of the marginalized and underserved outside of these structures. This initiative falls under our province's primary social ministry called the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (A.D.R.O.P.). Founded in 2004 by Fr. Jack Deegan, O.S.A., A.D.R.O.P. is a charitable branch of the province that organizes service providers, leaders and volunteers. Fighting poverty is a core tenet of the Augustinians and we work to eradicate poverty systematically. In order to do this, A.D.R.O.P. has a number of programs that take a holistic approach to mending both the symptoms and causes of poverty. Through the Unity Clinic, for example, we provide free primary care medicine by recruiting volunteer physicians, nursing students and nurse practitioners from Villanova University and the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to the Unity Clinic, A.D.R.O.P. also supports educational

enrichment programs, free ESL classes, and a restorative justice program for former prison inmates.

Of the 154 members of the province approximately 100 are actively engaged in ministry; 42 are retired or infirm; five are newer arrivals still in the formation process; and eight are Japanese friars ministering in four parishes in Japan. For many years, we have collaborated with friars of our Midwest Province in the mission in Chulucanas; at present, there is one Villanova Province friar serving in Peru. All of our retired and infirm friars are cared for within the communities of the province. Our health care facility, housed in our monastery at Villanova University, makes it possible for us to provide for the needs of most of our friars while they continue to enjoy full religious life in the Augustinian tradition.

The education and spiritual formation of those seeking to become Augustinian friars is provided by us in our own communities. Experienced friars guide candidates throughout the discernment process relative to their call to our way of life as well as to the call to priesthood or brotherhood. Currently, our five "simply professed" candidates receive their theological training with friars from our other two U.S. provinces at our house of studies in Chicago.

With all of these active ministries and needs, we must continue to raise funds to support these efforts. As a mendicant order, we support ourselves and our ministries, and care for our infirm friars and our vocation efforts through independent fundraising initiatives and the charity of benefactors. These efforts are underwritten by the Augustinian Fund; thanks to the generosity of many people, we are able to continue all of this important work.

As Augustinians of the St. Thomas of Villanova Province, we are proud of our history and the relationships we have built in our local communities. Our hearts are truly on fire because we have the opportunity to collaborate in community with others and to be of one mind and one heart on the way to God.

*Fr. Michael Di Gregorio is prior provincial of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and a member of the Merrimack College Board of Trustees.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON MERRIMACK ATHLETICS

### Twice as Nice! Merrimack Men's Lacrosse Repeats as National Champs

**The Merrimack College men's lacrosse team** cemented its legacy as the preeminent Division II program this spring by capturing its second consecutive national championship. After winning the 2018 crown in front of thousands of fans at Gillette Stadium, the Warriors went on the road to Philadelphia this past spring to win the 2019 title in dominant fashion with throngs of Merrimack supporters traveling to celebrate the program's monumental moment.

The team became the fifth ever in Division II history to repeat as national champions, and the fourth program to do so in the last two decades. They reached their third straight national title game overall and extended their NCAA Championship winning streak to seven games, both the longest active streaks in the country among all three NCAA Divisions. En route to the 2019 title, sixth-seeded Merrimack beat each of the East Region's top-three seeds (number 3 Mercyhurst, number 2 Adelphi and number 1 Le Moyne) just to reach the national championship game, and proceeded to triumph over Limestone in dominant fashion, 16-8.

"When you go through what we went through...had to lose some tough games, come back and then go on the road as the sixth seed and go beat teams that are our rivals...you know, then Mercyhurst, who is obviously tough at home, and then to come

here and avenge 2017, it's definitely a sweet ending," commented Head Coach **Mike Morgan** after the game. "These guys wrote their story, and that's what it comes down to. And it's one of those things, there have only been five teams that have gone back-to-back in Division II, so for us and for these guys, it's certainly impressive."

Unquestionably the top overall program in Division II in recent years, Morgan now elevates his program to Division I status as one with plenty of championship pedigree. The Warriors vault into the Northeast Conference (NEC) with 11 straight seasons with at least 11 victories, and four straight campaigns with at least 15 triumphs. In addition to the two national titles, the program boasts a pair of conference titles over the last two years and a school record 18-win season in 2018. Individually, the program has produced 10 All-Americans over the last two years alone, the most of any Merrimack program during that time span.

Taking every trophy, every milestone and every championship moment into consideration, the men's lacrosse team begins its foray into Division I with a reputation as strong as any other to challenge the nation's elite. They closed their Division II chapter as being the best, and now will aim to replicate that feat at the highest level in 2020.



### Women's Lacrosse Shines Bright in 2019

**The Merrimack women's lacrosse team** had a championship moment of their own this past spring. The Warriors completed a magical run to win their first-ever conference title in 2019, claiming league supremacy after winning the eight-team league tournament as the number 7 seed. The team upset number 2 Adelphi — the eventual national champions — on the road to start its herculean run before knocking off sixth-seeded New Haven and top-seeded Le Moyne on its home turf to raise the league tournament title.

A back-and-forth and down-to-wire title bout saw the Warriors outlast the Dolphins, 10-9, to hand the previously 19-0 regular season champions their first loss of the season and first defeat since April of 2018. Merrimack became the first program not named Adelphi or Le Moyne to win an NE10 Championship in over a decade, and put an exclamation point on a program resurgence led by Head Coach Julie Duffy. The Warriors boast a 25-12 record over the last two years after she inherited a program looking for its first winning season since 2011.

After elevating the program to new and unforeseen heights, Merrimack embarks into the future with a new championship pedigree. Now — with the entire athletics department elevating to Division I status — the Warriors have the opportunity to prove they belong among the nation's best.



## Tennis Team Offers Coaching to Displaced LHS Squad

The gas explosions that affected many in the Merrimack Valley in September continue to have long-lasting impacts across the region, including Lawrence High School and its athletic teams. The Lancers' tennis programs were displaced this spring due to damage that made their home tennis courts unplayable and in need of long-term repairs.

In April, the Merrimack College women's tennis program did its part to assist the community, welcoming Lawrence's girls' tennis team to Cedardale Health & Fitness in Andover for a clinic that offered an educational opportunity, community connection and a bonding experience between the Warriors and Lancers. Cedardale donated court time for the clinic as well.

"Across the courts, there were smiles all around. My players loved teaching and helping girls who haven't had the lessons or opportunities on the court that they have had in the past. The Lawrence girls felt welcomed and encouraged from the minute they stepped on the court; you could see their smiles and enthusiasm the entire time," commented third-year Head Coach Dena Madden.

"As a coach, this was a day unmatched by any win. My smile never left as I saw how much the moment meant to Lawrence's girls and how fulfilling of an experience it was for our team."

Eighteen players from Lawrence as well as every Merrimack player took to the courts at Cedardale for instructional drills.



The Merrimack and Lawrence High tennis teams took to the courts together at Cedardale Health & Fitness in Andover.



The  
Warrior  
Fund

Support Merrimack's move to Division I athletics and make your gift to The Warrior Fund today to help cultivate champions in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

[www.merrimack.edu/gift](http://www.merrimack.edu/gift)



## Merrimack Athletics Pens Incredible Ending to Division II Era



The 2018–2019 athletics calendar began with one of the most momentous announcements in Merrimack College history then covered itself with glory before closing with high hopes for the future.

Merrimack's transition to a Division I institution with membership in the Northeast Conference (NEC) comes on the heels of an impressive conclusion to its DII tenure. Following the announcement in September 2018 that Merrimack would rise to DI status in the fall of 2019, the Warriors embarked on a banner year. The Athletics Department captured the DII Northeast-10 Conference's President's Cup for the second straight year, recognizing Merrimack as the NE10's top institution in terms of overall athletic excellence. The Warriors won five conference titles — including a school-record four league tournament titles; and six programs advanced to the NCAA Tournament, along with three individual qualifiers.

Programs that captured conference championships during the 2018–2019 academic year included field hockey, women's golf, men's basketball, men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse. The titles were the first-ever for field hockey and women's lacrosse and the fourth title in five years for women's golf in the NE10. On its way to the national championship, the men's lacrosse team won the NE10's regular season title, adding another feather to an unprecedented two-year run as Division II's preeminent men's lacrosse program. Additionally, four other programs, including men's soccer, women's tennis, men's tennis and baseball, finished as finalists in the NE10.

The men's basketball team ended its Division II history with three consecutive NCAA Tournament bids, including its highest-ever number 2 overall seed in the 2018–2019 tournament after snapping its 19-year conference title drought. The team now turns its attention to March Madness at the DI level. After a four-year reclassification period to Division I status, the Warriors will set their sights on winning a NEC crown to qualify as one of 68 teams vying to win a national championship in the NCAA tournament.

The Warriors also showed impressive academic success. Five student-athletes representing five programs were named Academic All-Americans, which was the most in school history for a single season. Twenty-six student-athletes were NE10 Academic All-Conference selections, and six received the distinguished NE10 Sports Excellence Award as their sport's top overall athlete. Additionally, 22 of Merrimack's 24 varsity programs achieved a 2018–2019 team grade-point average of at least a 3.0.

A number of student-athletes were celebrated on campus as well in the 2019 Leadership, Excellence, Achievement and Determination (L.E.A.D.) Awards. Men's lacrosse's Charlie Bertrand and men's basketball junior sensation Juvaris Hayes shared the co-male athlete of the year award alongside female athlete of the year, women's ice hockey senior goaltender Samantha Ridgewell. Men's ice hockey's Chase Gresock and women's golf's Jordan Laplume were the respective male and female rookies of the year. The women's tennis team was lauded for its community service efforts, while the men's cross country and women's golf teams were the academic teams of the year.

Women's ice hockey's Paige Sorensen; cross country/track and field's Sophie Gorton, softball's Nicole Nanof, baseball's Matthew Ronai, field hockey's Delaney Yule, and women's tennis' Mana Seifaei were winners of a variety of other prestigious awards given to graduating seniors. Sorensen was chosen to represent the senior class as the 2019 student Commencement speaker and Nanof was awarded the Merrimack Medal.

There is no denying that, as Merrimack College closed the book on its Division II era and gets ready to pen its first chapter as a member of the Northeast Conference, the successes enjoyed, championships won and memories made over the past decade will not be forgotten when our Warriors take their game to the highest level next fall.

**Merrimack's transition to a Division I institution with membership in the Northeast Conference (NEC) comes on the heels of an impressive conclusion to its DII tenure.**

**+ TOGETHER FOR GOOD +**  
*The Campaign for Merrimack College*

# EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

**JUDITH “JUDY” TEEHAN WINSTON ’64 AND ROBERT “BOB” L. WINSTON**



Judith “Judy” Teehan Winston ’64 and husband Robert “Bob” L. Winston

**Thanks to the generosity** of Judith “Judy” Teehan Winston ’64 and her husband, Robert “Bob” L. Winston — two of the largest donors to the *Together for Good* Campaign — Merrimack is leading the charge in developing an innovative model for supporting and empowering teachers in the Merrimack College community and beyond.

For Judy and Bob Winston, supporting education at Merrimack is a cause that has long been near to their hearts.

In 1994, they established the Teehan-Winston Scholarship to provide financial aid to students pursuing a career in education. The endowed scholarship has grown significantly and now supports multiple students. Encouraged by the meaningful impact of their scholarship, and seeking to make a difference in the broader education community, they created the Winston Excellence in Teaching Fund at Merrimack with a gift to the College’s *Together for Good* Campaign.

The Winston Fund, housed under the School of Education and Social Policy, funds a range of programs for aspiring and professional teachers. As part of this initiative, and thanks to the Winstons’ guiding vision, the School is working to develop a new model for providing support to all teachers, especially focusing on the unique and complex needs of new teachers. Both Judy and Bob are generous philanthropists whose support includes Bob’s alma mater, Boston College, and The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

**A Vision Informed by Experience**

A former teacher herself, Judy’s vision for the School’s model of new teacher support stemmed from her own experience working in education for more than 15 years.

Beginning her career in Billerica, Massachusetts — the same place in which she completed her practice teaching while a student at Merrimack — Judy found a mentor in her older sister, a fellow teacher in the Billerica school system.

Having the opportunity to discuss her successes, struggles and ideas each day with a more seasoned teacher made all the difference for Judy in her professional development. However, she realized that not all teachers had this same experience. Throughout her career, she observed a pattern of talented teachers leaving the field due to lack of support and opportunities for mentorship.

Judy’s observation, shared by many educators and confirmed by well-documented statistics, points to a compelling need to provide additional support for novice teachers.

**Compelling Need for Support**

For new teachers, their first few years in the field are a crucial transition time — and often, will determine their likelihood of remaining in the profession long-term. As reported by the National Center for Education Statistics, 51 percent of new teachers report being under great stress several days a week — and this stress adds up, with alarming ramifications.

According to the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future, nearly 50 percent of new teachers leave the profession within their first five years in the field.

These startling statistics are often attributed to the host of challenges many teachers face when embarking upon their career, ranging from lack of experience in classroom management, difficulty with balancing work-life commitments and the need to differentiate education styles to accommodate the varying needs of students within the same classroom.

To make a change, the School of Education and Social Policy has committed to tackling these challenges head-on. Through the implementation of programs supported by the Winston Fund, new teachers within the Merrimack community and beyond now have access to a wealth of resources to support them during their first few years in the field.

**Envisioning a New Model for Teacher Support**

These resources include professional development and networking events, mentoring opportunities, an online forum for virtual access to resources and community discussion and more. Together, they comprise a multifaceted model that is unique to Merrimack and not currently offered by any other college or university in the country.



And the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

To date, more than 700 participants have attended professional development and symposium events held on Merrimack's campus, including educators from more than 10 local school districts. Attendees have provided positive feedback, describing how the events foster a collaborative environment in which teachers can learn from and support one another.

Among these events, the New Teacher Support Symposium especially epitomizes the School's unique model of teacher support.

Held annually, the New Teacher Support Symposium is a day-long event to unite new teachers with more seasoned educators who share their own journeys, advice and best practices. The event features accomplished keynote speakers and dynamic breakout sessions covering a variety of topics pertinent to new teachers.

The event is free and open to students, alumni and members of the local education

community. Attendees can even earn a certificate of participation applicable toward their professional development points, allowing them to make progress in renewing their teaching licenses.

To complement what they learn at the New Teacher Support Symposium, educators have the opportunity to attend additional professional development workshops offered throughout the year. These collaborative workshops cover topics ranging from how to ease the new teacher transition, to behavior and classroom management strategies, to specialized topics such as how robots can be used to teach coding.

While many of the School's programs focus on exclusively meeting the needs of new teachers, additional programming geared toward experienced educators is also available. Collectively, these programs reach a wide audience, including current undergraduate and graduate students at Merrimack, new in-service teachers, and seasoned educators and administrators across school districts in Massachusetts. Altogether, these programs, made possible

by the support of the Winston Fund, have had many early successes, with plans to expand resources offered to the education community.

Isabelle Cherney, dean of the School of Education and Social Policy says, "The support of the Winstons has proven invaluable in allowing the School to craft strategic programming and cultivate a supportive environment for teachers. I look forward to seeing the difference these programs will make for teachers as they advance in their journeys to become highly effective educators."

Inspired by what she observed so early on in her own career, Judy is proud to be able to support the next generation of teaching professionals. She shares, "we feel that providing teachers support at the beginning of their career, before they become overwhelmed, is critical to assuring good teachers stay in teaching for a lifetime. Merrimack's leadership in training teachers is well-known and I am happy we can invest in elevating the College's impact on a profession so critical to society."

## 1947 Society

Including Merrimack College in your estate plan is a simple yet powerful way to invest in the future of the College. When you make a planned gift of any amount, you help strengthen the Merrimack experience for the next generation of scholars.

Visit [www.merrimack.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.merrimack.edu/plannedgiving) to learn how you can become a member of the 1947 Society.



## GIVING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

DR. ANNE HALLEY '67



A self-described lifelong learner and teacher, Dr. Anne Halley '67 credits her Merrimack education with providing her the opportunity to fulfill her dreams, leading her to earn multiple graduate degrees and enjoy a successful career in teaching and, later, management at the New York Times. Inspired by her Merrimack experience and to honor a dear friend who was never able to attend college due to financial constraints, Anne established the Anne Halley Scholarship in 2005 for underrepresented populations of students at Merrimack, later making an additional planned gift to the College. Elaborating on the inspiration behind her giving to Merrimack, Anne shares, "My experience and education at the College were priceless and inspired me to start a scholarship to give someone else the same opportunities I had."

### Lifelong Learner

Raised in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Anne originally set her sights on attending college at an institution outside of the Merrimack Valley. With aspirations of becoming a teacher, she applied to a number of schools, recalling, "To be honest, Merrimack wasn't my first choice. But the other colleges I was accepted to just seemed too big to me. In the end, Merrimack ended up being the best fit because of its smaller size."

Once she arrived at Merrimack and dove headfirst into her studies, Anne found that the College's size was merely one of its benefits. She quickly discovered the combination of major-focused and liberal

arts courses fueled her passion for learning. "My educational experience was especially rich because each semester we had to take liberal arts courses, like literature and philosophy, that added so much to the history content I was also studying."

Merrimack was an environment where Anne felt she could thrive, and she found her four years at the College to be a transformative experience — unlike anything she had encountered before in education. She explains, "Prior to coming to the College, I was a top student in my high school, but I was bored to death. When I went to Merrimack, I came alive. I found the education so stimulating, which turned me into a lifelong learner."

### Lifelong Teacher

After graduating from the history program, Anne's passion for learning remained strong. She went on to earn a master's degree and a Ph.D. Fulfilling her dream of becoming a teacher, she then went to work within the City University of New York system. Unfortunately, New York City entered a fiscal crisis, forcing the university system to make a large number of layoffs. Wanting to avoid the uncertain landscape of teaching at the time, Anne made the decision to pivot to an entirely new career, taking a position in advertising at The New York Times.

Approaching this career shift with the same sense of confidence she carried throughout her time at Merrimack, Anne states, "My liberal arts education made it possible for me to be flexible and succeed in an entirely new career." And succeed she did. Anne worked her way from a part-time to full-time employee, culminating in a position as a senior manager. A true lifelong teacher, she never forgot the skills she learned during her time at Merrimack and beyond.

### Lifelong Supporter

While working at the Times, Anne found herself reflecting on ways she could give back and make a positive difference in the world. Although she wanted to support Merrimack students, she was hesitant and thought that her contributions would not be enough to make the impact she desired to have. "For years, I thought you needed to be a millionaire to start a scholarship. But

one day, I finally took the initiative to call Merrimack and ask what I could do to help." That call was the first step in establishing the Anne Halley Scholarship, an endowment providing financial assistance for a deserving student from an underrepresented population in the Greater Lawrence area of Massachusetts, which to date has supported five students, each for their full four years at Merrimack. Anne recalls, "Upon learning that a scholarship was possible, I became rather weepy, as it is a big thing to do and very rewarding."

Over the years since establishing the Anne Halley Scholarship, Anne has enjoyed receiving updates from recipients of the award. She recounts, "The majority of my scholarship recipients indicate how life-changing the scholarship has been for them. To me, scholarship at Merrimack is the most worthwhile cause I can think of — to continue enriching people's lives and give them a future that might not be possible without the help of financial aid."

Encouraged by the tremendous growth of the College, and empowered by the impact of her scholarship donations, Anne decided to further the impact of her philanthropy by making a generous bequest intention to Merrimack. This bequest will support the Anne Halley Scholarship, providing financial aid for Merrimack students in perpetuity. "I wanted to do something for the greater good by leaving my earnings to the College. It feels good to pass it along and make things possible for others that affects their lives in a positive way," she shares. Now a proud member of the College's 1947 Society, established to recognize Merrimack alumni, parents and friends who demonstrate their generosity to the College through a planned gift, Anne says it feels "terrific" to be able to support Merrimack in a variety of ways.

And she encourages others to explore how they might be able to support Merrimack through giving. From annual donations to company matching funds, and even planned giving, she notes it is amazing to see how quickly support can add up. "Think about what you derived from your education and your experience at Merrimack and pass it along. Let someone else enrich their lives through the same means. It's a lot easier to give than you might think."



# The Merrimack Fund

Your gift to **The Merrimack Fund** helps fund critical projects and programs, and makes a lasting impact on current and future generations of Merrimack scholars.

Every gift matters, no matter the amount. Your support ensures that together, we can make a positive impact to advance Merrimack College's goals.

[www.merrimack.edu/gift](http://www.merrimack.edu/gift)



# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1960s

▶ **THOMAS ELWOOD '63**, although retired from full-time employment, Elwood remains active in the health domain, serving as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Allied Health. His third book, on health care for the aged, is scheduled for publication in 2019. He also teaches a graduate school-level course on health policy two semesters each year at Rutgers University Biomedical and Health Sciences.

## 1970s

▶ **BRUCE COHEN '74** was recently elected state representative in the New Hampshire Legislature. He represents a district in Nashua, New Hampshire.

▶ **MARIE BOYD '76, P'12** recently retired from Chaffey College where she served as curriculum chair and librarian/professor for 20 years.

▶ **BRIAN KOZIK '78, P'13, '16** has been hired as the chief compliance officer at Broward Health.

## 1980s

▶ **ADRIENNE FRANCIOSI '84, P'22** was recently promoted to assistant vice president of graduate and professional studies at Lasell College.

▶ **GAIL MCINTYRE '84** was recently promoted to chief scientific officer at Aravive Inc.



▶ **BRIAN DOWNER '87, P'18, '21** was hired as executive vice president and chief procurement officer at SunTrust.

▶ **LISA FIORENTINO '87** was recently promoted to chief executive officer at Indian Hill Music.

▶ **DAVID L'HEUREUX '87** has been hired as executive vice president, commercial banking division at Brookline Bank.

▶ **JOHN PARROTTA '80** works with the U.S. Forest Service, based in Washington, D.C. His work is focused on research and policy support aimed at conservation, sustainable management and restoration of the world's forests and their biodiversity. He was recently elected to serve as president of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO: the global network for forest science cooperation) for a 5-year term beginning at the 2019 IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil in early October.

## 1990s

▶ **SCOTT RAGUSA '91** was promoted to chief executive officer at WinterWyman.

▶ **STACEY DION '98** was promoted to global head of government affairs at The Carlyle Group.

## 2000s

▶ **NICHOLAS GOSSELIN '06** has been hired as the director of marketing for the Freedom Boat Club.

▶ **COLLEEN (MESCALL) TEMPLE '08, M'13** curated and edited the book, "This Is Motherhood: A Motherly Collection of Reflections and Practices" that came out March 12. It is a book of 80+ essays from over 40 contributors (including one essay from another Merrimack grad and employee, **Megan O'Neill '05**) on all of the ups and downs mothers experience.

## 2010s

▶ **JAMIE FAGAN '10** was named the 2018 Massachusetts Leukemia and Lymphoma Man

of the Year, raising \$98,755 in honor of his mother Janice, and in memory of his aunt Dianne. The honor followed a 10-week fundraising competition. [1]

▶ **MEGAN FOLINO '14** and **MATT KIRKHAM '13** were married on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Merrimack College. The wedding party included fellow Merrimack alumni **Lauren Folino '16, Nicholas Kirkham '17, Christine Neel Dumont '14, Leanne McAuliffe '14, Michaela McIver '14, Kelly Vaillancourt '15, AJ Andreucci '13, Alex Cultrera '13, Ronnie Malconian '13, Matt Dubois '13** and **Joe Murphy '13**. [2]

## IN MEMORY

James Douglas Smith '51  
 Patricia Hart-O'Donnell '54, P'89  
 Albert Savastano '54  
 Joseph Winning '54, P'92  
 Barbara Cronin '63  
 David Brucato '64  
 Anthony D'Angelo '64  
 Charles Joseph Barton, Jr. '66  
 Michael C. Bider III '74  
 Carol A. Sylvia '75  
 Roger Bergeron '78  
 William Civitillo, Sr. '78  
 Ralph Kandrut '80

**SHARE YOUR NEWS!** Tell us what you've been up to, and we'll share your news here!  
 Email your news and photos to [alumnirelations@merrimack.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@merrimack.edu).

## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

*The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty*

▶ **JIM KAKLAMANOS**, associate professor of civil engineering and Zampell Family Faculty Fellow, was recently recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Tufts University, where he earned his Ph.D., M.S. and B.S.C.E. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to an alumnus or member of the Tufts CEE community who exemplifies service to their profession and the department.

▶ Philosophy professor **WILLIAM WIANS** has published a second volume of essays titled *Logoi and Muthoi*, exploring interdisciplinary connections between ancient Greek philosophy and literature. The chapters examine philosophical problems of knowledge and ethics in ancient writers, including Homer, Hesiod, Sophocles, Euripides, the pre-Socratics, the Sophists, Plato, Aristotle and Lucretius. It is available on Amazon.com.

▶ **SIMONA SHARONI**, professor of women's and gender studies and director of the Interdisciplinary Institute, recently received the Eminent Scholar Award from the feminist theory and gender studies section of the International Studies Association (ISA).

▶ Education Department assistant professor **RENA STROUD**, the senior researcher for Project LEAP at Merrimack, was recently quoted in "Education Week Spotlight" for a story on the benefits of introducing algebra to students as young as elementary school ages. The intent isn't to introduce curriculum meant for older students, but rather to look at how younger students can think through algebraic concepts.

▶ **JOE KELLEY**, professor of religious and theological studies and director of the Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, traveled to Bogotá, Colombia in April with

**SR. JEANNE GRIBAUDO** and three Austin Scholars to attend the conference "St. Augustine, Teacher for the 21st Century." Kelley presented a paper about Catholic higher education and the Austin Scholars Program, Merrimack's oldest existing living-learning community.

▶ Sociology assistant professor **DANIEL HERDA'S** latest article, with Bill McCarthy of UC-Davis, is "No Experience Required: Violent Crime and Anticipated, Vicarious, and Experienced Racial Discrimination." The article is in press at *Social Science Research*.

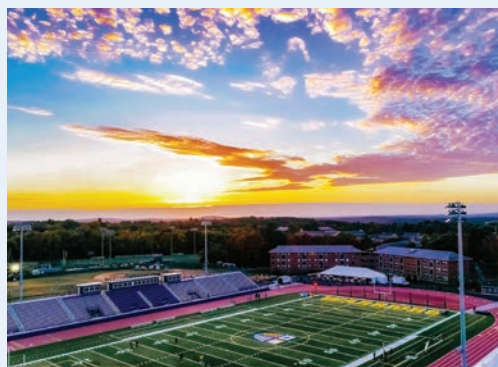


Mark your calendar for our annual  
**Christmas Celebration**

Friday, December 6, 2019  
 Four Seasons Hotel, Boston

[www.merrimack.edu/christmas](http://www.merrimack.edu/christmas)

# SAVE THE DATE



## SEPTEMBER

**03 Fall Classes Begin**  
Opening of the 2019–2020 academic year

**03 Mass of the Holy Spirit**  
Mark the start of the 2019–2020 school year with this Merrimack tradition  
*Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher*

**05 Academic Convocation**  
A shared experience that allows us to explore an academic or intellectual issue more deeply together, as a community

**11–14 The Iliad, the Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology (in 99 Minutes or Less)**  
As the clock ticks away, this cast of actors speeds through ALL of Greek mythology...or else! This funny, easy-to-understand crash course will have you rolling in the aisles  
*Sept. 11 • 11 a.m. • Rogers Center*  
*Sept. 12 • 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*  
*Sept. 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*  
*Sept. 14 • 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*

**13 Annual Block Party**  
Planned by the Office of Student Involvement, join Merrimack students, alumni, faculty, staff and families for food, games, novelties, a bar, a DJ and so much more!  
*Evening • Parking Lot H*

**22 The Music Faculty Concert**  
“French Connections,” Merrimack’s own music faculty, will explore the connections between French impressionism and American jazz  
*2 p.m. • Rogers Center*

## OCTOBER

**04–06 Homecoming Weekend**  
Experience the tradition - come back to the Mack for Homecoming weekend and relive the best parts of being a Warrior

**16 Fall Atrium Concert Series: Matt Jaskot**  
Classical piano  
*12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center Lobby*

**23 Fall Atrium Concert Series: Crosson Ensemble**  
Harp, violin and cello  
*12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center Lobby*

**30 Fall Atrium Concert Series: Gerry Johnston**  
Guitar  
*12:30 p.m. • Rogers Center Lobby*

**31 Cantus: One Giant Leap**  
“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind...”  
The all-male vocal ensemble performs an a cappella concert inspired by one of humanity’s great achievements  
*7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*

## NOVEMBER

**01–08 Mack Gives Back**  
A community-wide series of service events commemorating two days of significance in Merrimack’s history - Veterans Day and St. Augustine’s birthday

**14–15 Professional Development Retreat**  
A two-day career development initiative through the O’Brien Center for Career Development designed to connect juniors and seniors with industry alumni, while providing the knowledge, skills and competencies to thrive in the professional world  
*Nov. 14 • 8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.*  
*Nov. 15 • 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.*  
*Hotel Commonwealth, Boston*

**21–23 William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream**  
Student Series - Onstagers Dramatic Society Production

Fantastically funny complications ensue in one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies  
*Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*  
*Nov. 23 • 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*

## DECEMBER

**03 #GivingTuesday**  
Especially on this day, a global celebration of philanthropy that kicks off the holiday giving season, remember that your gift makes a difference at Merrimack!

**03 Celebration of Light and Hope**  
Embrace the spirit of Christmas in an evening of fun  
*5–8 p.m. • Lawler Rink*

**06 Annual Christmas Celebration**  
*7 p.m. • Four Seasons Hotel, Boston*

**07–08 A Merrimack College Christmas**  
Featuring Merrimack’s concert band, concert choir, jazz ensemble and a whole lot of holiday joy! A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Lazarus House  
*Dec. 7 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*  
*Dec. 8 • 2 p.m. • Rogers Center*

**09 A Festival of Lessons and Carols**  
Join us and add your voice to this special celebration of the season  
*7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center*

**ALUMNI EVENTS** [www.merrimack.edu/alumnievents](http://www.merrimack.edu/alumnievents) 978-837-5703  
**ATHLETICS** [www.merrimackathletics.com](http://www.merrimackathletics.com) 978-837-5341  
**ROGERS CENTER** [www.merrimack.edu/rogers](http://www.merrimack.edu/rogers) 978-837-5355  
**HOMECOMING** [www.merrimack.edu/homecoming](http://www.merrimack.edu/homecoming)  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** [www.merrimack.edu/christmas](http://www.merrimack.edu/christmas)



Save the date for  
**HOMECOMING 2019**

**OCTOBER 4-6, 2019**

Come back to the Mack for Homecoming weekend and experience the best parts about being a Warrior.

Visit [www.merrimack.edu/homecoming](http://www.merrimack.edu/homecoming) for more information.





# MERRIMACK COLLEGE

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