**CELEBRATING OUR RICH HISTORY**

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Summer 2022

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

Over one year has passed since the launch of Merrimack’s strategic plan, the Agenda for the Future. During this short period of time, the innovative work of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, donors and community has fueled considerable progress toward the bold, ambitious goals we set for the next chapter of Merrimack’s history.

The Agenda for the Future details three strategic directions the College will follow, with an initial emphasis on growth. The institution’s growth is measured not only in areas like new campus infrastructure and increased enrollment, but also in supporting an entrepreneurial culture that nurtures academic excellence, scholarship and service. Guided by this focus on growth, Merrimack has committed to developing robust research opportunities that allow students to gain hands-on experience and our faculty to make groundbreaking discoveries. We have also developed new, innovative partnerships with organizations across the community and expanded our outreach by integrating volunteer opportunities into the Merrimack experience.

This special edition of the Merrimack Magazine, the second in our Because We Believe 75th anniversary celebration series, showcases new initiatives, research opportunities and campus happenings that exemplify the College’s incredible growth. You will hear about exciting new developments across many areas, including the Center for Innovation and Research

in Engineering and Computational Sciences, the Winston School of Education and Social Policy’s recent partnership with the EdWeek Research Center, the significant expansion of Merrimack’s endowment and more.

While we take great pride in these recent achievements, we also remain deeply connected to the College’s roots and celebrate its rich history that has propelled us to where we are today. To honor 75 years of incredible growth and innovation, this magazine includes a foldout Merrimack timeline that provides a look back across the history of the College, highlighting significant events that have contributed to Merrimack’s profound transformation.

Thank you for supporting the continued growth of Merrimack College. Your involvement, encouragement and faith helps ensure we can continue to impact the lives of our students for many years to come.

God bless,

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. President

**FULL STEAM AHEAD ON NEW CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN ENGINEERING AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES**

Collaboration. Hands-on learning. Research. Inside the new Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences, Merrimack students will have even more opportunities to bring their ideas to life. Opening in the fall of 2022, the facility is a critical part of the College’s Agenda for the Future, which is designed to build on the momentum of the past 10 years. By expanding Merrimack’s research capabilities, the Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences will promote innovation and support our goal of becoming a doctoral and professional institution by 2030. The new facility will also set the stage for major renovations over the next few years in Palmisano Hall, which currently houses engineering programs.

“What is most exciting about a more robust research portfolio is the ripple effect it will have across the entire College,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “The facility will attract more research-focused faculty, open more opportunities for partnerships with external groups, and encourage our students to further cultivate their academic curiosity.”

**More space, more potential for breakthroughs**

The new facility, which will expand the programs for civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, will double the College’s current engineering space by adding 31,000 square feet in 2022 and an additional 14,000 square feet in 2024 to further the Computer Engineering and Computer and Data Science programs. Along with hands-on laboratories and state-of-the-art classrooms, the Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences is designed to facilitate faculty-student collaboration and provide areas dedicated to advising and academic support.

The center will also improve Merrimack’s competitive position as a research-based institution with a focus on STEM. The addition of mechanics, robotics, geofluids, environmental engineering, and material science labs, among others, will create an engineering hub for the College. The facility will also feature a 2,500-square-foot Innovation Workshop that will allow faculty and students to translate their ideas into real-world applications and transformative products that will make a difference in the world.

“Research is not exclusive to a lab bench. It means going out into the community and learning how to better serve marginalized people,” explained President Hopey. “It means engaging with industries to inform programs and curriculum to ensure the 21st century workforce

is fully prepared to succeed. The new Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences helps us do just that.”

In the coming years, Palmisano Hall will also undergo extensive classroom and lab upgrades focused on expanding the undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental, health and life sciences. The enhancements will augment the College’s sponsored research capacity through a new instrumentation lab, renovated classrooms and new research space. Together, the Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences and Palmisano Hall will create a STEM quad on campus.

**Paving the way for the future**

Merrimack is poised for its next chapter of innovative change. Expansion of the School of Science and Engineering align with the strategic mission of the Agenda for the Future, a five-year plan to continue the College’s vision of expanding the campus, increasing enrollment and continuing to improve its overall reputation.

“This is a truly momentous time for the College,” said President Hopey. “I look forward to witnessing the breakthroughs that will be made at the Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences, across our campus and beyond.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit www.merrimack.edu

**Merrimack helps uncover the state of TEACHING IN AMERICA**

How do America’s teachers really feel about their jobs? Researchers at Merrimack College’s Winston School of Education and Social Policy teamed up with the EdWeek Research Center to administer the 2022 Merrimack College Teacher Survey to more than 1,300 K–12 teachers nationwide. According to the survey, educators feel overworked, underpaid and not respected by the public.

“The data from this survey will drive education research for years, sharpen the curriculum at the Winston School and — I sincerely hope — act as a wake-up call to school administrators, politicians and every American who cares about our children’s education,” said President Christopher Hopey. “I’m proud of Merrimack and the Winston School for leading the way in such an essential endeavor.”

**SURVEY REVEALS A PROFESSION IN CRISIS**

The 2022 Merrimack College Teacher Survey fills the gap left by the discontinuation of MetLife’s Survey of the American Teacher, revealing a once-in-a-generation crisis in the teaching profession. In 2008, for example, 62% of teachers were very satisfied with their jobs; today it’s 12%. About a decade ago, 8 in 10 teachers felt respected by the general public; today, it’s about half of that, with just 46% saying that they feel such respect.

Many teachers are so dissatisfied with their jobs that they’re looking for a new career. In fact, the survey revealed that 44% are very/fairly likely to leave the profession within two years.

“It’s a shocking number,” said Dan Sarofian-Butin, professor in the Winston School and principal investigator of the survey. “We depend on the dedication and experience of teachers to provide a quality education for our children, and a mass exodus from the profession would be disastrous. Policy makers must address the issues that are driving dissatisfaction.”

**TEACHERS SPEAK OUT**

The pandemic has only made teaching, already one of the toughest jobs in America, even harder. “I just don’t know where to begin. It’s awful,” one teacher wrote. “The stress has changed my entire life and has destroyed my health. Teachers’ mental health is a real crisis. Many of us suffer from PTSD due to a plethora of issues in this career, and we feel there is no way out.”

New teacher retention is at an all-time low and fewer students are considering entering the teaching profession. An elementary school teacher from New York wrote: “If I could go back, I would choose a different career field. I never imagined the constant battle and fast track to burnout.”

These responses can be disheartening, Sarofian-Butin says. “But this is information that school districts and policy makers need to know so they can start making changes. At the Winston School, we’re addressing many of these issues directly.”

**WINSTON SCHOOL PROVIDING SUPPORT**

The data from the survey shows that most teachers look to their colleagues for support, whether those colleagues work in the same building or at another school. This finding bolsters the rationale behind the Winston School’s Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS). Through MINTS, new teachers are connected with peers who are facing similar issues, as well as seasoned mentors who can give classroom advice and career guidance. This professional network is indispensable to teachers.

Teachers are unhappy that their classrooms have become embroiled in politics and culture wars, with just 46% of teachers reporting that they feel respected by the general public. As one respondent put it, “Teachers are trained professionals and should be treated as such. We should have authority over what we teach in our classrooms.” The Winston School emphasizes professionalism in its graduates, preparing educators to have a mastery of their subject matter and supporting their autonomy and authority in the classroom.

“It is safe to say that teachers feel threatened by such political hostility and taken aback at such vitriol for what they see as just doing their job,” said Sarofian-Butin. “Moreover, the majority of teachers feel that such hot-button issues have little to do with their daily work in the classroom and wish that more important things could instead be focused on.”

Teachers work an average of 54 hours a week and are feeling bogged down with administrative work, with 82% wishing they could focus more of their time on teaching-related activities. “We don’t have a planning period,” wrote one teacher. “We teach six out of six classes. We are constantly given more tasks and they never take any tasks away.” In the face of issues like this, Winston School graduates are prepared to think creatively and lead transformative change.

**A CATALYST FOR CHANGE**

The 2022 Merrimack College Teacher Survey is sparking conversations in teachers’ lounges, superintendents’ offices and homes across the nation. To help spread the word about the state of teaching in America, Professor Sarofian- Butin has been discussing the research data in webinars and with the press. He was particularly moved to see that 50% of the teachers surveyed took the time to respond to an open-ended question and voice their deepest concerns and most fervent hopes about their profession.

“These dedicated educators clearly wanted an outlet to give their perspective on teaching in America today. Their stories are so powerful and poignant,” he said. “For me, this is why we are doing the survey.”

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Get the full Merrimack College Teacher Survey results and download the white paper now.

**BY THE NUMBERS SIDEBAR**

The Merrimack College Teacher Survey gathered perspectives from 1,324 teachers, who averaged 54 hours worked per week, and includes the following results:

12% VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOBS

46% FEEL RESPECTED BY GENERAL PUBLIC

76% FEEL RESPECTED BY STUDENTS’ PARENTS

26% BELIEVE THEY ARE PAID FAIRLY

44% VERY/FAIRLY LIKELY TO LEAVE THE PROFESSION WITHIN 2 YEARS

82% FEEL RESPECTED WITHIN THE SCHOOL

44% VERY/FAIRLY LIKELY TO LEAVE THE PROFESSION WITHIN 2 YEARS

**Kenneth S. Rhee, Ph.D., Named New Dean of the Girard School of Business**

Kenneth S. Rhee, Ph.D., a renowned leader in business and management education, was named the new dean of the Girard School of Business at Merrimack College. “The Girard School of Business and the Merrimack community as a whole will greatly benefit from Dr. Rhee’s leadership,” said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. “The school’s reputation for excellence will continue to grow under his vision, and in collaboration with faculty, staff and students. Ken has demonstrated an ability to innovate, and work entrepreneurially, and he is ideally positioned to assist us with implementing the Agenda for the Future and partnering with us to help move Merrimack forward in the undergraduate, graduate, research and corporate domains.”

Rhee, who began his new role at Merrimack in July, formerly served as dean of the School of Business and Leadership at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. Among his accomplishments there were a complete rebranding of the School of Business and Leadership as well as the launch of new undergraduate and graduate programs and a women’s leadership workshop series.

“I am delighted to join the Girard School of Business at Merrimack College. I am highly impressed with the vibrant and energetic business school and its extraordinary faculty and staff. Merrimack College is blessed with outstanding leadership at the top, and these all made my decision to join the Girard School incredibly easy. I look forward to working together to grow the Girard School of Business and enhance its reputation.”

Prior to Nazareth College, Rhee was associate dean in the College of Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse and before that was director of the Master of Science in Executive Leadership and Organizational Change program and associate professor of management at the Haile/US Bank College of Business at Northern Kentucky University.

Rhee has conducted extensive research on leadership and management, as well as the ways higher education can evolve to prepare students to be leaders in the 21st century. He has also served as an executive coach and consultant for companies including Coca-Cola.

Rhee holds a doctorate in organizational behavior from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, a master of business administration from the Graduate School of Management at Boston University, a master’s in chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Technology and a bachelor’s in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University.

“We are delighted Ken has joined the Merrimack community and will continue to strengthen the Girard School of Business’s position as a leader in business education,” Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost John “Sean” Condon, Ph.D., said. “His accomplishments as a dean, faculty member and researcher in the business management field are unassailable, and his appointment is a critical next step in the school’s trajectory.”

As a senior academic leader, Rhee will play an instrumental role in advancing Merrimack’s strategic plan, the Agenda for the Future, specifically working to respond to the changing needs of industry partners and developing programs to prepare the workforce of the future. Through rigorous academic programs, innovative project- based work and experiential learning, the Girard School of Business empowers and inspires students to be business leaders and advocates.

**José Rafael Sánchez, Ph.D., Named New Dean of the School of Science and Engineering**

José Rafael Sánchez, a leader in higher education engineering programming and a renowned expert on ultrasonic imaging, will serve as the next dean of Merrimack College’s School of Science and Engineering, President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs John “Sean” Condon, Ph.D., announced.

Sánchez, formerly the dean of Wentworth Institute of Technology’s School of Engineering, started at Merrimack on July 1.

“Throughout his career in academia, José has been a leader in transforming the way we educate future engineers,” said Hopey. “His enthusiasm for entrepreneurship and innovation will add tremendous value to the School of Science and Engineering. His leadership and expertise will be critical to elevating Merrimack’s research endeavors and commitment to graduate education, both strategic initiatives laid out in the Agenda for the Future. We are proud to welcome José to the Merrimack community.”

During his time at Wentworth, Sánchez oversaw all aspects of the engineering school including developing a strategic plan for diversity, equity and inclusion; introducing industry-sponsored interdisciplinary projects; and establishing an articulation agreement with Mass Bay Community College for the computer, electrical and mechanical engineering programs.

“I am humbled and honored to serve as dean of the School of Science and Engineering,” Sánchez said. “I have been attracted to Merrimack for some time because of its strong mission that includes educating the student as a whole. I was inspired when I met the faculty and staff because they are invested in the institution. I am incredibly excited to start my journey and help the School integrate the Agenda for the Future to reach greater heights.”

Sánchez’s appointment coincides with the work already underway at Merrimack’s future Center for Innovation and Research in Engineering and Computational Sciences at 510 and 530 Turnpike St. Fully dedicated to STEM programs and research, this new facility will bring together technical education with hands-on development allowing students to bring their ideas into real-world applications and products.

Before Wentworth, Sánchez was a founding director, associate dean and associate professor at the University of Indianapolis’s R.B. Annis School of Engineering. There he played a pivotal role in the school’s growth, including the addition of six new programs and improvement of the existing computer science program. Sánchez also previously served as an associate professor at Bradley University.

“This is an exciting time for Merrimack and the School of Science and Engineering, and José is the right person to help make the College’s STEM and research ambitions become reality,” said Condon. “I look forward to his vision for the school, which will rely heavily on collaboration with students, faculty and staff.”

As an electrical and computer engineer, Sánchez has done extensive research on ultrasonic imaging, including reducing the instances of speckles in ultrasonic imaging to improve visibility. He has also presented on reimagining computer engineering curricula and integrating entrepreneurial thinking in engineering design.

Sánchez received his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical and computer engineering from Bradley University.

**PRAYER FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE**

Written by Fr. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Vice President of Mission and Ministry

Because we believe…

we offer our praise and thanks to You, O God, for calling Merrimack College to serve You and Your people for 75 years.

Because we believe…

that every good work is made possible only with Your Grace, we ask that throughout this anniversary year, we celebrate with a gratitude that matches the abundance of blessings we enjoy.

Because we believe…

that knowledge leads to wisdom when we travel the path of humility, may the privilege we enjoy to explore the marvels and miracles of creation always stir within us true wonder and awe at the loving beauty of You, the Creator of all that is.

Because we believe…

that the measure of love is love without measure, help us always to be ready and willing to welcome, embrace and include all of Your children as our brothers and sisters.

Because we believe…

that the gifts with which You bless each one of us belong to all of us, challenge us to give ourselves away generously in service to one another while receiving joyfully what each contributes in return.

Because we believe…

that real love seeks the good of all before its own, call us to lives of vocation in which we place the fruits of our education at the service of the whole human community.

Because we believe…

that we are meant to live in freedom under Grace, set us free from all that inhibits, hinders and stifles our yearning for the fullness of life in Your presence.

Because we believe…

that in You is found the fullness of light, love and power, continue to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives through the love and work of Merrimack College for generations to come.

Because we believe…

that one day we will find our rest in You, keep us restless until that day, always striving to know ourselves as You know us and to love ourselves and one another with the same love with which You love us.

**TIMELINE INTRODUCTION**

FOR 75 YEARS, the story of Merrimack College has been one of profound transformation. Once a humble commuter college that opened its doors with the goal of educating World War II veterans, the past three-quarters of a century has seen Merrimack become one of the top-

ranked undergraduate and graduate colleges in the Greater Boston area.

Through every transformation, the core of who we are has not changed. Founded on the Augustinian mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives, our community has long been committed to the values of scholarship, social justice and service. As we ring in our 75th anniversary with our yearlong Because We Believe celebration, it is the perfect opportunity to look back on all we have accomplished together.

Browse this timeline of memorable highlights for a glimpse of how we have excelled in academic, athletic and social justice endeavors and changed our school, our community and the world for the better.

Open the special foldout to see highlights from Merrimack’s 75-year history.

**TIMELINE**

January 9, 1947: Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, O.S.A., is appointed the College’s president in

December 1946. Early the next year, he visits the planned site for the school and records his thoughts in his personal diary.

September 29, 1947: The first 165 students begin taking classes at Merrimack College.

A week earlier, a dedication at St. Augustine Parish in Andover marked the formal opening of Merrimack College.

September 1950: Coeducation arrives at the College. The first nine women to enroll

are Estelle Bernardin, Barbara Coughlin, Catherine Carolyn Cullen, Grace Delamare, Patricia Hart, Margaret Hickey, Loretta Konopacka, Antoinette Mazzaglia and Helen Toohig.

April 22, 1954: Archbishop Richard Cushing breaks ground for the construction of

the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, which is completed the following year.

September 5, 1960: With the opening of the Austin Centre (later renamed the Allen J. Ash Centre), the College offers a residential college experience.

March 1967: The varsity hockey team wins its first ECAC Division II Championship.

July 1968: Rev. John A. Aherne, O.S.A., is elected second president of Merrimack College.

May 2, 1969: The Augustinian College of the Merrimack Valley changes its name to Merrimack College.

November 1972: The women’s basketball team begins varsity competition.

June 1976: Rev. John A. Coughlan, O.S.A., Ph.D., is elected third president of Merrimack College

March 1977: The men’s basketball team reaches the NCAA Regionals for the first time.

March 18, 1978: Men’s hockey win its first NCAA Division II Championship.

March 1981: Rev. John E. Deegan, O.S.A., Ph.D., is elected as the fourth president of Merrimack College

December 1981 Merrimack hosts a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and concert. That tradition continues in the College’s annual Celebration of Light and Hope.

October 1, 1983: For the penultimate day of his career, Red Sox great Carl “Yaz” Yastrzemski ’66 requests a Merrimack presence at “Yaz Day.” The College presents gifts to Yaz and a Merrimack student sings the national anthem.

November 1986: The women’s soccer team wins Merrimack’s first Northeast 10 Conference Championship.

March 19, 1989: On Palm Sunday, the Merrimack College Choir performs for Pope John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica.

April 26, 1993: An observatory opens at the Mendel Center featuring the largest research telescope in the Merrimack Valley. Students and faculty conduct original scientific research with the equipment.

May 1, 1994: The softball team, boasting a 45-4 season record, wins the NCAA Division II National Championship.

May 1995: The baseball team wins the ECAC Division II Championship.

August 1995: The Center for the Study of Jewish- Christian Relations is established, eventually becoming the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian- Muslim Relations.

October 1995: Richard J. Santagati is named the fifth president of Merrimack College, and the first lay president in the history of the College.

October 23, 1995: The Moseley Wrought Iron Arch Bridge, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, is brought from Lawrence to campus.

October 1997: The Warrior women’s cross country team captures its first Northeast-10 Conference Championship.

September 16, 1999: The Girard School of Business opens its doors.

January 2000: The Rogers Center for the Arts officially opens.

Spring 2000: A group of Merrimack faculty takes the College’s first Pellegrinaggio trip to Italy, retracing routes from the life of Saint Augustine.

November/ December 2003:Following consultation with many stakeholders, a new institutional logo is introduced.

March 2004: The women’s basketball team wins its first NE-10 Championship and makes it to the Final Four in the NCAA tournament.

January 2008: Rev. Joseph Calderone, O.S.A., Ed.D., is named the sixth president of Merrimack College.

August 2008: Ronald O. Champagne is named the seventh president of Merrimack College.

Summer 2009: A labyrinth is constructed on campus to encourage meditative contemplation.

July 2010: Merrimack installs Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., as the eighth President of Merrimack College.

2011: The first graduate programs, master’s degrees in higher education, teacher education and community engagement, are launched with just over 100 students.

May 7, 2012: The O’Brien Center for Career Development opens.

November 2012: The College establishes Mack Gives Back, a day of community service.

Fall 2013: Merrimack’s newest dorms opened, South Residential Village.

August 2015: Hands to Help, a community resource center, is founded in partnership with St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

June 27, 2017: Track star Carly Muscaro ’17, the most highly decorated athlete in Merrimack history, is named Division II Woman

Fall 2017: Merrimack launches the Early College Program, a dual enrollment program that allows Lawrence high school students to earn credits at the College.

September 2017: Crowe Hall, which houses Merrimack’s Girard School of Business, opens.

October 2017: Merrimack officially opens Duane Stadium, which features a multipurpose field with a turf surface and eight-lane track.

May 27, 2018: The Men’s lacrosse team won the National Championship again in May 2019.

July 2018: Merrimack is designated a Bloomberg Certified Experiential Learning Partner.

September 2018: The Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center, home to the College’s Welcome Center opens.

October 15, 2018: Merrimack College athletics transitions to Division I.

November 29, 2018: Merrimack is named an Apple Distinguished School for technology integration, a designation that will be renewed three years later.

January 2020: In recognition of efforts to reduce inequities in education, Merrimack is awarded the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

February 2020: Merri joins the campus community as Merrimack’s full-time comfort dog.

February 18, 2020: Merrimack opens a new Nursing Center with state-of- the-art technologies and top-notch instructors to support its new nursing program.

February 2021: The Merrimack marching band debuts, accompanying the College’s Division I athletic program.

March 2021: Merrimack launches the Agenda for the Future, providing a strategic roadmap for

the next chapter in the College’s history.

Spring 2021: Merrimack launches the Center for Health Inclusion, Research and Practice (CHIRP), a consortium of biology labs that focus on closing the gaps that result from systematic health disparities.

November 2021: Merrimack is recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the

10th fastest-growing private nonprofit institution in the master’s category out of 347 colleges and universities.

Spring 2022: With the approval of the master of science in clinical mental health counseling and the master of public affairs, the College now offers 25 master’s degrees and 20 graduate certificates.

June 2022: A record number of new student applications and acceptances are received for the Fall 2022 semester.

**NOTABLE & QUOTABLE**

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack’s exceptional faculty

Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry BRANDI BALDOCK was recently interviewed by 101edu about how to use technology to engage students and promote active learning in chemistry courses.

APRIL BOWLING, SC.D., assistant professor, Department of Public Health and Nutrition, School of Health Sciences, was featured in WalletHub’s recent article “Best Cities for an Active Lifestyle.”

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering JAMES

KAKLAMANOS was recently profiled in a monthly feature article by the Seismological Society of America, as part of its “At Work” column.

DR. SUSAN MARINE, vice provost and professor in graduate education, published a new edited book: “Critical Praxis in Student Affairs: Social Justice in Action.”

Associate Professor of Marketing JOSEPH STASIO provided expert commentary for MoneyGeek on a new auto insurance calculator.

Assistant Professor of Practice KATHRYN WELBY ’01 was featured in a MoneyGeek article about how to teach children about money.

Girard School of Business Assistant Professor TINGTING ZHANG published, “Bridges or Barriers? The Relationship between Immigrants’ Early Labor Market Adversities and Long-Term Earnings,” in the International Migration Review.

**FR. ROBERT P. HAGAN, O.S.A., ELECTED PRIOR PROVINCIAL**

The Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova is pleased to announce that Fr. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., has been elected to a four-year term as prior provincial. His installation took place during the Ordinary Provincial Chapter on June 12–17, 2022.

The new prior provincial currently serves as Villanova University’s senior associate athletic

director and team chaplain for the Villanova football and men’s basketball programs. Fr. Rob first came to Villanova in 2003 as the assistant athletics director for compliance and was promoted to his current position in July 2004. He was ordained to the priesthood in September 2003.

Fr. Rob is a 1987 Villanova graduate and earned a juris doctor from the Widener University School of Law in 1990. He spent seven years as an attorney with Gillin and Associates, where from 1990 to 1997 he served as criminal defense counsel in addition to handling contract negotiations, arbitrations and mediations.

**MERRIMACK WELCOMES AUGUSTINIAN PRIOR GENERAL TO CAMPUS**

The Rev. Alejandro Moral Antón, O.S.A., Augustinian of Note, visited Merrimack’s campus to engage in conversation with Austin Scholars at the Rogers Center for the Arts. In a period of growing polarization around the world, it is necessary to first understand yourself before reaching out to others, the Rev. Alejandro Moral Antón, O.S.A., prior general of the Order of St. Augustine, told Merrimack students recently.

“It’s a journey on a long road, but the first step is finding out about myself to know what I need to know,” Fr. Moral said. “It takes self-understanding first. That then leads to creating

relationships that are less polarized and with more communion in friendship.”

Fr. Moral shared this wisdom, as well as his thoughts on spirituality and his experiences as an Augustinian, during Merrimack’s Augustinian of Note lecture on March 28. He has served as prior general, the head of the order, since 2013.

He participated in a conversation at the Rogers Center for the Arts with Austin Scholars Theresa MacDonald ’22 and Michael Senoff ’22. They were joined on stage by the Rev. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A., vicar general of the Order of St. Augustine and former director of campus ministry at Merrimack College, who served as translator.

“I am very happy to see so many young people here,” Fr. Moral said. “When I see young people I think of the word dream. You all look to the future and have the opportunity to dream.”

The wide-ranging discussion between the students and Fr. Moral included what inspiring person gives him hope. He explained that Pope Francis continues to inspire him to carry on with his work, but added that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a place that inspires him as well.

“The people there, with all the needs they have, still give witness to a joyful life,” Fr. Moral said.

The students also asked Fr. Moral how he personally would define spirituality, which he said is incredibly internal.

“It touches the core of my being,” he explained. “Spirituality is based on God, and it helps me to live my life. It is that interior relationship that helps me live my life and serve the brothers and sisters I meet.”

The evening concluded with MacDonald and Senoff presenting Fr. Moral with a copy of the Austin Scholars Stations of the Cross Project, which features drawings and reflections by students that interpret the Stations as a way to address issues of social justice. Additionally, Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., presented Fr. Antón with an honorary degree for his years of service.

Honoring Merrimack’s Augustinian roots, the Augustinian of Note speaker series aims to introduce the Merrimack community to the reach of the Order of St. Augustine, while showcasing to Augustinian leaders how the order’s mission and values are being lived out by Merrimack students. The speaker series is one example of the College’s enduring commitment to celebrating its Catholic faith, mission and values with both the campus and wider Merrimack community. These values invite all members of the community to learn, teach, work and study in ways appropriate to their discipline and their service, and in a manner that makes Merrimack College a vibrant Augustinian academic community.

**CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!**

Merrimack College hosted its 72nd annual Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2022 at Duane Stadium. The weekend kicked off with the Graduate Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 20, followed by the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22. The College awarded seven honorary degrees during the Commencement exercises, to Judy Teehan Winston ’64 and Bob Winston, Stacey Ciprich, Joyce and Bill Cummings, James T. Brett,

and M. Lee Pelton.

Other celebratory events throughout the weekend included the Baccalaureate Mass, Legacy Reception and President’s Reception. The graduates, their guests, and faculty and staff enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the class of 2022 and honor their milestone achievements.

Congratulations to all of the graduates. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus as Merrimack College alumni!

**A LAUNCHPAD FOR ROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH**

Improving law enforcement education and training. Empowering student engagement in computational chemistry. Discovering the relationship between brain injuries, sleep and emotional regulation. Merrimack College faculty are conducting important research every day, and it’s in large part thanks to the Zampell family.

In 2017, Christine ’75 and Jim ’75, established an endowment to support faculty research. They were inspired by Christine’s father, a biology professor, and by their confidence in Dr. Christopher Hopey and his vision for Merrimack’s future.

**GIVING NEW LIFE TO RESEARCH**

Long committed to giving back to their alma mater, Christine and Jim sought to provide Merrimack faculty and students with a means for engaging in compelling and, in some cases, life-changing research. Every year, the endowment bestows important support toward faculty research projects and professional development opportunities that have the potential to change the world.

The fellowship has helped fuel the transformation of Merrimack College into an up-and-coming research institution. “The idea was to help the faculty, but I also hoped that the students would be exposed to more research so they could apply to graduate school with a funded project under their belt,” said Christine. “When you help the faculty, you help the students.”

**BREAKTHROUGHS BEYOND SCIENCE**

While Christine and Jim are in the business of engineering and construction, their gift is not limited to one topic or area of study. Since its inception, their fellowship has funded an array of research initiatives — from analyzing how social media contributes to the mistrust of science to determining the mechanisms of nanoparticles to facilitating community- based wellness.

“The [science] topics get my attention, personally, but some of the studies open your eyes to the potential in other fields.… We’re not alone in expanding our scope; even National Institutes of Health funding has shifted over the years, from being exclusively for very concrete science topics to areas like wellness,” said Christine. “The faculty we’ve met and the projects they’re doing, they’re amazing … and I love projects that involve undergraduates in the research.” Most fellowship recipients work collaboratively with Merrimack students, some of whom are included as co-authors on published papers.

**MODELING SEISMIC THREATS**

Among the many memorable projects, Christine highlighted the work of civil engineer and Merrimack Associate Professor Jim Kaklamanos, Ph.D., which focuses on designing infrastructure that can withstand earthquakes. His work involves leveraging data to create and test models that determine the behavior of structures during seismic events, which can then be used to create safer building codes and better hazard maps.

**CREATING A STEPPING-STONE**

“Though the fellowship awards go to faculty, our goal for this endowment was to create a branching effect — the funding goes to research, undergraduate students get real-world experience that they can leverage for their future, the school moves up in the national rankings, and faculty members use it as a springboard for their careers. Everyone wins,” said Jim Zampell.

Christine also spoke about the profound impact early grants can have on faculty research projects. “They can take what they’re doing with our funds and generate new data that allows them to apply for another grant. It’s essential for faculty to have avenues for getting their research published — both for their academic careers and for achieving tenure. This fellowship gives them a start.”

For potential donors who are considering a similar gift to the College, Christine cites the endowment’s positive, long-term effects — not only on research efforts, but also on the College as a whole. “This is something that really builds the school’s reputation. And because it’s an endowment, it continues to grow. Brick and mortar is wonderful, but eventually those buildings change. An investment in research has a lasting impact on the lives it touches and the students that it inspires.”

For a complete list of Zampell Fellows and their work over the years visit our website.

**SIDEBAR**

What if you could make an impact today — and for decades to come? That’s the power of establishing an endowment at Merrimack College. Merrimack’s endowment is a dedicated and permanent source of funding that supports all areas of the College. With more than 350 individual funds invested together, the endowment has supported scholarships, student and faculty research and professorships across our campus.

**Here’s how it works:**

1. You make a gift to Merrimack College’s endowment. Thank you!
2. Merrimack College invests your gift. Merrimack diversifies its investments among various asset classes, incorporating multiple strategies and fund managers. Following established guidelines aimed at safeguarding assets and maximizing returns, major investment decisions are authorized by the Board of Trustees Investment Committee.
3. The income from your endowment is used to support your chosen initiative. Each year, approximately 5% of the market value of your endowment will support the scholarship, professorship or program you’ve designated. Gifts to the general endowment provide unrestricted support to all areas of the College.
4. Your endowment gift provides support in perpetuity. Any appreciation in excess of the annual 5% distribution is retained in the endowment so it can grow and support future generations. As a result, gifts to the endowment can help support Merrimack’s financial foundation for generations to come.

Endowed funds may be named in honor of a loved one or cherished faculty member and offer a wonderful way to create a permanent legacy.

**Every gift matters**

Named endowments begin at $100,000 or more, but a gift of any size can be designated to Merrimack’s general endowment. Endowment gifts support our core academic mission and allow the College to:

* attract and retain the most driven faculty members and researchers
* provide funding to important programs without interruption
* offer deserving students access to a Merrimack education

Growing the endowment through gifts helps improve our national ranking and advance important initiatives across campus. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

**Make a difference**

Your endowment gift can change students’ lives. Want to learn more? Contact Leila Rice, vice president, development and alumni relations, at 978-837-5997 or ricelc@merrimack.edu.

Curious about other ways to give? Visit MERRIMACK.EDU/ GIVING/WAYS-TO-GIVE. Thank you for supporting the success of Merrimack College.

**WARRIOR TOP 10**

1. **Merrimack Introduces Three New Varsity Programs**

On March 1, the athletic department announced that three new varsity-level programs will begin competition in the Northeast Conference next year: women’s bowling, men’s golf and men’s volleyball. Merrimack is one of seven institutions to join as inaugural members of NEC men’s volleyball, set to begin in 2022–23. Jalen Scott-Jones was tabbed as the first coach for the women’s bowling team, while Ray Lewis was selected to begin the men’s volleyball program. Jason Malcolm assumes the new role of director of men’s and women’s golf with the expansion.

1. **Coaches Jen Fox Sargeant and Brian Murphy Earn First Program Wins**

After maintaining a competitive nonconference slate, Head Women’s Lacrosse Coach Jen Fox Sargeant earned her first win on home turf as the Warriors bested league foe Howard 17-6 on March 26. Head Baseball Coach Brian Murphy’s squad earned his first win early, taking a doubleheader sweep of the St. Bonaventure Bonnies in Port Charlotte, Florida. The victory

came with seven strikeouts by starting pitcher Vin Zappulla ’21 M’23 and a two-RBI day for Michael Golankiewicz ’22.

1. **Women’s Hockey Earns First Playoff Win in Program History**

The women’s hockey team defeated the University of New Hampshire 4-1 in the opening round of the Hockey East Playoffs in Durham, New Hampshire, as the 8/9 matchup. Merrimack scored the first two goals of the game in the second period. Sam Lessick ’23 scored on a delayed penalty for the first time in program history, and Gabby Jones ’22 scored on a four-on-four to give the Warriors a 2-0 lead. In the third, Courtney Maud ’21 M’23 scored on a power play to make it a 3-0 game. UNH scored late in the third before Teghan Inglis ’23 scored a shorthanded empty net goal to seal the victory.

1. **Head Softball Coach Elaine Schwager Earns 400th Win**

A 3-0 victory in the second game of a Northeast Conference doubleheader marked the 400th career victory for Head Softball Coach Elaine Schwager. In her 14th year at the helm at Merrimack, Schwager has recorded 275 victories and is one of 10 coaches with wins in Divisions I, II and III of the NCAA. Schwager becomes the third coach at Merrimack with 400 career wins, joining Men’s Soccer Coach Tony Martone and Women’s Soccer Coach Gabe Mejail. She earned 175 of her wins as head coach at Regis and Suffolk.

1. **Men’s Ice Hockey Home Playoff Win**

Men’s ice hockey had its second straight sellout to end the season, with the 2,549-strong crowd bringing its energy to the whiteout. Merrimack scored on a power play in the first to take a 1-0 lead into intermission. Two more goals came in the second period before a three-goal sprint in the third period put the game firmly out of reach. The victory marked the team’s first postseason win at Lawler Rink since the Warriors beat New Hampshire 4-0 in an opening-round game on March 3, 2017.

1. **Meghan Dzialo’s 100th Career Goal**

Competing in her fifth season with Merrimack’s women’s lacrosse, Meghan Dzialo ’21 M’22 had her best offensive season in 2022 with 44 goals in 14 games. Dzialo scored a hat trick against Howard on March 26 to reach the milestone after starting the season with 16 goals in the first six games. She is now one of 12 players in program history to reach the milestone. The most recent player to hit 100 goals was Haley Bartlett ’21 in 2019.

1. **Jordan Minor Scores Second Team All-Conference and NABC Award**

Jordan Minor ’23 averaged 15.1 points per game during the season, which was good enough for eighth in the conference. Minor scored 20+ points on eight different occasions, including a career-high 28 points against Central Connecticut State University back in early February. The junior forward ranked first in the NEC in double-doubles with 13, putting him in the top 20 nationally in the category. He also averaged just over three offensive rebounds per game, which ranked him first in the conference and currently puts him in the top 25 nationally. Minor was also named to the 2021–22 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division I All-District Second Team in April.

1. **Women’s Indoor Track Distance Medley Relay Record**

At the NEC Championships in February, Samantha LiPetri ’23, Emma Faivre ’23, Emma Bouvier ’23 and Ava Mahoney ’24 shattered the previous school record in the distance medley relay. LiPetri was the lead leg, with a 3:53.17 split for the 1200m. Faivre took the baton from her, running a 1:00.26 400m. Next up was Bouvier for the 800m leg, finishing with a split of 2:24.24.

Last, anchoring was Mahoney, who completed the 1600m in 5:07.68. The team finished fourth in the event in the league championships, but shattered the previous program record by more than 5 seconds with a 12:25.36 finish, past the 2016 record of 12:31.08.

1. **Men’s Hockey NHL Contract Signings + Carlile Second Team All-League**

Declan Carlile signed as a free agent with the reigning Stanley Cup champions, the Tampa Bay Lightning, after a dominant season on defense for the Warriors. In his Merrimack career,

Carlile had 56 points in 83 games with 13 goals and 43 assists. He led all Warrior rearguards with 24 points on seven goals and 17 assists, and also topped the team with 87 blocked shots and a +14 on-ice rating, being recognized as a Hockey East Second Team All-Star. Defenseman Zach Uens also went pro, signing with the Florida Panthers on a two-year entry-level contract with the team that drafted him in the fourth round in 2020. In 2021–22, the defenseman netted a pair of goals and added 17 assists for 19 points in 34 appearances. He also had a +8 on-ice rating. Over the course of his collegiate career, Uens played in 82 games and had 44 points on the strength of seven goals and 37 assists.

1. **Skylar Pemberton Breaks Women’s Swimming Program Record**

At the NEC Championships in Ohio, women’s swimming team member Skylar Pemberton ’25 swam a 27.37 50-yard butterfly, setting a new program record. The previous record for the event was 27.42, set by Erin Claflin ’21 in 2018.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

1960s

* FRANK A. SAMBUCETI, ED.D. ’66 recently retired and accepted a position as an Adjunct CAP Program Supervisor at Merrimack College.
* TERENCE MCGINNIS ’67 became State Commissioner of Banks and was recently awarded for his service in community health care.

1970s

* STEPHEN CAMPBELL ’75 recently retired as Global Chairman, Private Capital Group with Citi Private Bank.
* DAVID J. MCGILLIVRAY ’76 ran his 50th consecutive Boston Marathon.
* DENNIS J. LEONARD ’77 was named Chairman of the Board of Directors at Everett Bank.

1980s

* STEPHEN ’80 and LAURIE FALLON JOHNSON ’81 hosted their neighbors and fellow Merrimack alumni for a cookout last summer in Old Orchard Beach.
* Merrimack alumni gathered for a golf outing at Club Pelican in Naples, Florida. Pictured are: KEN “HANK” DUANE ’81, DOUG NUTE ’80, GREGG MESSER ’80, RONNIE CONNORS ’78, and RICK CURRAN ’78.
* After 26 years, SEAN MCGOWAN ’81 has transitioned from teaching Physics and Computer Science to teaching Mathematics at Reading Memorial High School. McGowan is also the Coach of the Chess Team and runs the North Shore Interscholastic Chess League for regional high schools.

1990s

* KEVIN RHODES ’91 was appointed CFO for Duck Creek Technologies.
* ERMINIO GRASSO ’95 is the new President and CEO of MLS Property Information Network, Inc.
* ERIN GUZZO ’97 has taken a new position as Director of Marketing for Four Thought Private Wealth in Venice, Florida.
* LISA HEITZMANN ’98 has joined Deephaven Mortgage as the new COO.
* Former Merrimack basketball player JEFF CARON ’99 has been appointed as Coach of the Girls’ Basketball team at B.M.C. Durfee High School.
* DORIS RODRIGUEZ ’99 announced her candidacy for the new State Senate First District seat.

2000s

* After six years as Assistant Principal, ERIN (KELEHER) MACKAY ’02 has been named Principal of Tilton Lower and Upper Schools in Haverhill, Massachusetts.
* KRISTOPHER VENTRESCO ’03 and his wife, Jessica, welcomed their third daughter, Olivia Grace, in January. [3]
* KATHERINE BOURQUE ’04 was named the Director of Human Resources at Westfield School Department.
* AIDAN FORDE ’07 was named U.S. Institutional Sales Managing Director at RBC Global Asset Management Inc.
* ALISON LAROCCA ’08 was named the first President and CEO of Luminary Evaluation Group of Dalton.

2010s

* RICH MATSON ’11 and his wife, Natalie, welcomed their second son, Felix, in January. Felix is a bundle of joy, and the whole family is happy and healthy.
* MARYROSE MAZZOLA, ESQ ’12 was named the inaugural Director of the Center for Sexual and Reproductive Health at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.
* ALEXANDRA (PICARDI) RACICOT ’13 and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their second child, Beckham, in October 2021.
* LINDSEY (KELLEY) CURLEY ’13 recently married her husband, Stephen.
* JENNIFER PINO ’13 was recently hired as the Head Lacrosse Coach for the Scarlet Knights.
* ALEXANDER CROSS M’14 was recently named the new Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Dean of Students at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.
* ANDREW DRESNER M’16 was named Interim Head Football Coach at the University of Maine.
* EMILY BODYK ’13 M’14 was married on October 30, 2021, accompanied by Merrimack College alumni: Brittany Reissfelder ’13, Dan Borges ’13, April (Daugherty) Borges ’13, Colin Cunniff ’14, Dominique (Mercier) Cunniff ’13, Ellen McDonald ’13 and Hannah Williams ’15.
* JULIA MAGGIACOMO ’18 recently became engaged to her boyfriend, Alex.
* SAM COOPER ’19 has been signed to the Texans practice squad.

2020s

* BRENDAN HOFFERTY ’20 was officially appointed as a new police officer in Burlington, Massachusetts.
* DEVIN NEAL ’21 was officially appointed as a new police officer in Burlington, Massachusetts.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Anthony Fragala ’54

John “Jay” R. Martin ’55

Robert F. Cannon, Sr. ’57

Armand Leboeuf ’57

Robert F. Hatem ’58

Rita Jensen ’60

Donald Lamoureux ’60

John P. Rimas ’60

Kathleen (Maher) Connolly ’70

Thomas Despres ’72

Lucretia Garrigan ’72

Paul Racioppi ’74

Kevin Kelliher ’77

William E. Steele ’77

Robert Hoar III ’80

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ... visit merrimack.edu/update to share life changes, employment updates, accomplishments and pictures.

**The Merrimack Fund AD**

Support What You LOVE

Make a gift to The Merrimack Fund. Your gift — combined with the generosity of others

— has a powerful impact on the College.

Visit MERRIMACK.EDU/GIFT to make a gift today!

**The 1947 Society AD**

“We came for four years...”

“...AND STAYED A LIFETIME.”

That’s how MARY ’81 AND MIKE FRANCO ’81 view their relationship with their alma mater. Both believe they are blessed because they came from humble beginnings, and Merrimack set them on a course for life that has been everything they could have hoped for — and more.

Since the day they set foot on campus in 1977, Merrimack has remained central in their lives. They were married on campus by Father Casey, and their son Michael graduated in 2012. They feel a debt of gratitude to Merrimack and have established a planned gift as a family legacy to the place that means so much to them.

They encourage others to consider a planned gift to the College as well. As Mary explains, “Because we believe in the Merrimack community and the profound way it shapes the lives of young people, supporting the College through our service and financial gifts now while creating a planned gift for the future is important to us.”

TO LEARN MORE about The 1947 Society and ways to support Merrimack through a planned gift, please contact Leila Rice at (978) 837-5997 or ricelc@merrimack.edu, or visit MerrimackLegacy.org.

**BACK COVER**

Homecoming Weekend 2022

SAVE THE DATE • SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2, 2022

merrimack.edu/homecoming

**FRIDAY 9/30**

* Field Hockey vs. Wagner, 1 p.m., Duane Stadium
* Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Syracuse, 2 p.m., Lawler Rink
* Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
* MACKtoberfest

**SATURDAY 10/1**

* Football vs. Long Island University, 1 p.m., Duane Stadium
* Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Syracuse, 2 p.m., Lawler Rink

**SUNDAY 10/2**

* Women’s Soccer vs. Stonehill, 1 p.m., Martone-Mejail Field
* Weekend Fun & Activities
* Tailgating on 10/1, tickets will be available in August
* Parent and Family Weekend events
* Check out the Merrimack Marching Band