**Merrimack College**

74th Commencement | Class of 2024

The School of Engineering and Computational Sciences

Friday, May 17, 2024

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**MACE BEARER**

Christopher Stuetzle, PhD, Chair and Associate Professor, Computer and Data Sciences

**CROSS BEARER**

Rebecca Jimenez, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

**THE GRADUATES**

Led by Father Raymond Dlugos, OSA, PhD; Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**THE FACULTY**

**THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY**

Academic Deans

Distinguished Speaker

Board of Trustees

Executive Vice President

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

President

The audience is requested to stand if they are able during the Academic Procession, Invocation and National Anthem, and to remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves at the end of the exercises.

# PROGRAM

**PRESIDING**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**PROCESSIONAL**

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**INVOCATION**

Kevin J. Lucey ’89, Chair, Merrimack College Board of Trustees

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Audrey McGill ’25 Accompanied by The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**WELCOME**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**A MESSAGE FROM MERRIMACK STUDENT LEADERS**

Maxwell Beland ’24

Lara Guvelioglu MA ’22, MPA ’24

**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER**

Joshua Dion ’03, Vice President of Engineering, RightHand Robotics, Inc.

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**AWARDS**

* Edward G. Roddy, Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Presented by John “Sean” Condon, PhD, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

* 2024 Merrimack Medal

Presented by Rebecca Jimenez, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**MERRIMACK ANTHEM**

Audrey McGill ’25 Accompanied by The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

**BENEDICTION**

Father Raymond Dlugos, OSA, PhD, Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**CLOSING OF THE EXERCISES**

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

**RECESSIONAL**

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

# MASTER’S DEGREES IN COURSE

Ellaa Abouelmagd

Sherin Elsa Abraham

Edgardo Alequin Miranda

Quadri Ameen

Joseph Annand

Scott Bennett

Shane Bennett

Bryce Beuerlein

Abhay Bhurane

Dylan Bielser

Aleah Bobb

Terrick Boire

John Bray

Olivia Bresett

Mary Brown

James Buchholz

Juan Carlos Cabrera

Allison Carey

Kevin Carr

Adeline Casali

Samuel Chebook

Jason Como

Spencer Congdon

Joel Coste

Christian Crowley

Giovanni D’Angelo

Zachary Dieujuste

Thomas Dinh

Kael Dougherty

Antoine Douglass

Jordan Dubreuil

Hisham Elhassan

Scott Eugley

Calvin Passy Evina Mbozoo

Mellissa Fierro

Anthony Foderaro

Nicholas Foderaro

Shawn Forrester

Donald Franks II

Cameron Gallien

Steven Gambino

Taylor Gangi

Miranda Gemme

Susan Gittao

Angelique Gomez

Camila Gonzalez

Luilly Gonzalez

Ann-Marie Grissino

Genesis Guerra

Kara Haase

Raelle Halliburton

Alexander Hastings

Hansel Heredia

Melissa Hibbard

Isaac Hodgkins

Katharine Holland

Joseph Hollins

Patrick Honeywell

Mark Hoyt

Damon Huber

Nicholas Ilvento

Daniel Jackson

Stephen Jimenez

Samuel Kawuma

Ryan Kelly

Philip Kendall

Julekha Khatun

Sunkwon Kim

Ronnie King

Joshua Knight

Michael LaRochelle

Katherine Lemiesz

Annelise Lobo

Juan Lopez

Leandro Lopez

Kyle Macri

Andrew Majeski

Sree Durga Sai Saranya Mallipudi

Anthony Masse

Mayra Mavarez Finol

Nikhil McCanna

Nicholas McDonough

Rafael Medeiros Pereira

Terry Melim

Yannelly Mercado

Ahmed Messid Bouziane Meflah

Benjamin Michaels

Ethan Michaels

Derek Morrison

Hayley Fairchild Morway

Margaret Mulhall

Ssuna Mulindwa

Griffin Murphy

Patrick Neff

Khoi Nguyen

Marven Noa

Udumaga Onyeukwu

Christian Ortolaza

Nischal Pant

Benjamin Park

Lisa Partington

Vishal Patel

Max Paul

Jarrod Peoples

Ranauld Perez

Jyotsna Pradhan

Nicholas Quinteros

Ryan Richardson

Jeffrey Roark

Christopher Rodgers

Obrie Scarbrough

Alexander Schneider

Troy Scott

Jacob See

Zachary Shaft

William Sherry

Nileema Shrestha

James Shultz

Harrison Southworth

Alisha Souza

Shelby St. Cyr

Fareesa Syeda

Kerry Talbot

Dayan M. Tan

Jack Taubl

Emma Tkachuk

Erika Torkildsen

Pedro Torres

Jesus Torres Garcia

Nelson Tran

Laura Trimboli

Mohammed Uddin

Steven Uzupis

James Wangler

Jessica Weeks

John Wetzel

Jonah Wilson

Ruth Wilson

Adam Wood

Bishal Yogi

James Zafiri

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN COURSE

Anthony Allain

Samuel Barresi

Connor Beevers

Harrison Bell

Jomar Bey

Joshua Blais

Hannah Bouley

Ian Branconnier

Emily Brown

Nicholas Burling

Alexander Butera

Ryan Canfield

Mark Case

Michael Chankhour

Camron Chrissis

Caroline Collins

Patrick Connolly

Matthew Cooney

Antonio Craveiro

Michael Daly

Eric DeFelice

# Jason Demers

# Arden Dioslaki

# Marguerite Dolan

# Matthew Donnelly

# Aidan Dorgan

# Colin Dottor

# Alexander Elguezabal

# Owen Enestvedt

# Samantha Fagundes

# Madison Gant

# Matthew Giannasca

# Matthew Gilliland

# Aidan Gilwee

# Mina William Girgis

# John Gosselin

# Arthur Got

# Daniel Gray

# Christian Grenier

# Mitchell Guinan

# Irvin Guzman

# William Hancock

# Justin Hankins

# Matthew Haskins

# Barbara Hume

# Teghan Inglis

# Raymond Ivers

# Gage Johnson

# Alyssa Juzwick

# Sean Kelley

# Rachel Kunz

# Trym Kyvaag

# Nathan Lajeunesse

# Noah LaMonica

# Matthew Lanney

# Neil Letellier

# Daniel Lignos

# Braden Likhite-Koehler

# Rebecca Linane

# Nicholas Lombardo

# Martin Lopez

# Leudybert Lora Cruz

# Anton Mao

# Zachary Marzano

# Zara Masino

# Kira Mazur

# Connor McBrien

# Andrew McDermott

# Adassa Medor

# Catherine Merritt

# Benjamin Miller

# Ava Minisolo

# Olivia Montejunas

# Raymond Mullin

# Moses Mwaura

# Joseph Nemeczky

# Natalie Nemes

# Patrick Norcross

# Jad Noureddine

# Zachary O’Connell

# Vayolet Ovalle

# Ethan Patten

# Nicholas Petersen

# Antoni Piascik

# Gihana Pruitt

# Kennedy Rahaman

# Chris Rincon

# John Russo

# Ryan Russo

# Sharbel Saab

# George Sachs-Walor

# Peter Salib

# Benjamin Santeufemio

# William Scanlon

# Gregory Sencabaugh

# Kyle Silva

# Shane Soares

# Augustus Syracuse

# Isaiah Thomas

# Connor Thornell

# Alexander Urbaniak

# Brianna Van Hecke

# Aidan Varano

# Brayden Waterman

# Dylan Wells

# Sean White

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

**Joshua Dion ’03**

Mr. Dion is an executive leader with more than two decades of product leadership experience.

Known for his transformative leadership in tech, Mr. Dion has catalyzed significant growth and innovation at both startups and established corporations. At RightHand Robotics, he has revolutionized company strategy and processes, enhancing product delivery and scalability, markedly advancing the company’s standing in the industrial robotics sector.

Previously, as vice president at HPE SimpliVity, he led a global engineering team of 600, significantly improving engineering efficiency and boosting revenue. Committed to developing diverse, dynamic teams, Mr. Dion ensures his groups are equipped for success in fast-paced environments. He champions mentorship and professional development, creating comprehensive training programs that enhance leadership and technical skills across his organizations.

A proponent of the growth mindset and inclusive cultures, he extensively coaches teams toward continuous improvement. Mr. Dion was recognized as a Horatio Alger National Scholar, an exclusive honor bestowed for resilience in the face of adversity. In his spare time, he actively contributes to the Horatio Alger Scholar Alumni Association and volunteers in his local parish, teaching adult faith formation.

He graduated from Merrimack College in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in computer science and earned his master’s in business administration from Clark University in 2012.

# DIPLOMA TRANSLATION

**The translation of the Merrimack College diploma from Latin to English is as follows:**

Merrimack College

To all reading this document

Greetings in the Lord

The President, Faculty and Trustees of Merrimack College

by virtue of properly completing required studies on the recommendation of the faculty

and by the authority vested in us

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts confer on

name of student

the degree of

name of degree

and grant freely all rights, privileges and honors pertaining to that degree.

In witness thereof we place the seal of the College.

Given in North Andover in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

date of degree

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin J. Lucey ’89, Chair

Christopher E. Hopey, PhD, President

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Dennis J. Leonard ’77

Paul L. Mucci P’07

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Kevin R. Rhodes ’91

Kevin J. Routhier ’99

James E. Scammon ’83

Patrick J. Sullivan

# ABOUT MERRIMACK COLLEGE

One of only two Catholic Augustinian colleges in the United States, Merrimack College is a rising institution with a decade-long trajectory of growth and innovation. Merrimack is a selective, research-oriented, master’s comprehensive institution with approximately 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students from 34 states and 36 countries, comprising schools of arts and sciences, engineering and computational sciences, nursing and health sciences, education and social policy, and business. The College’s 220-acre campus is just north of Boston in North Andover, Mass.

# MISSION AND VISION

**Our mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives.**

Inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue, our vision is to:

* Prepare students to adapt creatively to tomorrow’s realities through excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the professions;
* Build a community of scholars welcoming and respecting a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives;
* Cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service;
* Encourage and support scholarly work that contributes to the wisdom on which society bases its decisions;
* Engage other educational institutions, industry, and agencies of social change in collaborative efforts fostering a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

# THE SEAL OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Drawing on our rich history, the modern shield of Merrimack College reinterprets elements from the original 1947 College seal.

The shield includes four quadrants:

* The book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”), the famous words connected with the conversion of Saint Augustine to Catholicism, proclaiming the College’s founding by the Order of Saint Augustine.
* Wavy pallets, to represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley’s original Native Americans.
* The cross fleurette, from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, in which Merrimack College is located. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823).
* The symbolism of our colors: blue for loyalty (and the cold, rippling waters of the Merrimack River) and gold for wisdom (also the color of the papacy).



# THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace carried in academic processions derives from medieval times in England when an official was taking office. At that time, the mace was a formidable weapon and was held ready by the mace bearer to protect the dignitary. From the sixteenth century in England and since colonial days in the United States, the mace has become a symbol of academic office and is carried by a distinguished member of the faculty.

The Merrimack College mace has a young history. It was fashioned for the 1986 Commencement by Cistercian Monks of the Holy Rood Guild at Saint Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The monks are renowned craftsmen and designers of ecclesiastical vesture.

The Merrimack College mace is thirty-six inches long and is made of black walnut. The front of the mace carries the College’s hand-painted, gold-leafed seal. From the intricate coat of arms of the Order of Saint Augustine, the back of the mace is hand carved with an open book symbolizing the conversion of Augustine. On the left hand side of the book is a tongue of flame above a heart pierced with “the burning love of God.” An elegantly simple cross adorns the top of the mace.

# THE CEREMONIAL CROSS

The processional cross is expressive of the Augustinian longing for unity of our minds and hearts in God. It was designed by the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns at the Monastery of Our Holy Savior in Leccetto, Tuscany, Italy. Small replicas of this cross are given to Merrimack students engaged in service to others through Service Learning and the SEND Programs as well as to those who participate in MORE, the Pellegrinaggio en Italia, and other programs that foster self-awareness and spiritual growth.

# REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie in fourteenth century England. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were often cold and damp; long gowns (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion.

The distinctive gown set the student apart from their fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costume for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee’s prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown, and hood, it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree— bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor’s or master’s degree, gold for a doctor’s degree or the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is normally black, and the gown’s cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor’s has long, pointed sleeves, while the master’s has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor’s sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well. The hood tells the most about its wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college. The color of the hood’s binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted. Students also wear other regalia, including cords signifying academic honors and stoles representing countries they studied in during their academic career.

At formal academic occasions, the President of Merrimack College also wears the Presidential Medal which incorporates the College seal.

# MERRIMACK COLLEGE ANTHEM

O Merrimack, how shall we honor you?

With mind and heart awakened to the truth. We shall build God’s city in ourselves

and in our world, reaching out in service, our hearts a-fire with love.

The restless quest for wisdom in the company of friends,

call us ever onward ‘til in God our hearts find rest. Our guides are faith and

reason on a path that yet unfolds, and come we will to wisdom through

knowledge formed in love. O Merrimack, how shall we honor you?
With mind and heart awakened to the truth. We shall build God’s city in ourselves

and in our world, reaching out in service, our hearts a-fire with love.