

## MERRIMACK

A Magazine for Our Alumni, Parents and Friends

Fall 2019

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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

Lately, we've had much to celebrate. We began the 2019–2020 academic year on the heels of incredible accomplishments—from exceeding our fundraising goal in our *Together for Good* Campaign to meeting every objective in our 10-year strategic plan, the *Agenda for Distinction*, to welcoming our largest-ever first-year class.

Within these pages, you'll find additional examples of noteworthy achievements. In athletics, we've officially launched our first season as an NCAA Division I institution (pages 2–5), raising our level of competition and the national profile of our institution. In academics, we recently

welcomed our first class of 47 nursing students (pages 10–12). By earning their bachelor of science in nursing, these students will be well positioned to help meet our nation's urgent need for highly skilled caregivers.

We were also pleased to be recognized as the 35th-best undergraduate teaching program in the north by U.S. News & World Report and named one of the region's best colleges, moving up to No. 46 (out of 170 universities) in 2020 from No. 50 in 2019.

While these accomplishments have fueled a sense of pride, they've served an even more important role by setting the stage for Merrimack's next chapter—a time of continued growth, aspiration and achievement. Put simply, our work has just begun.

Today, we are tasked with the responsibility of positioning Merrimack to thrive amid a challenging higher education landscape. As a community, we have been preparing for the future by embarking on the strategic planning process. Collaborative working groups, made up of Merrimack faculty and staff, have helped develop the *Agenda for the Future*, a five-year plan that positions Merrimack to succeed in an evolving marketplace. As we finalize the details, I look forward to sharing them with you in the coming months.

Merrimack College's success has always been powered by the strength of our community. Thank you for your support. Truly, the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.









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"While our accomplishments have fueled a sense of pride, they've served an even more important role, by setting the stage for Merrimack's next chapter."

DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY, PRESIDENT

## ON THE RISE AND READY TO

Story by Ginny Caggiano Photos by Webb Chappell

Audacious. Mind-blowing. Daring. These were just some of the adjectives that came to mind when, in 2010, Merrimack President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., boldly stated that the College was going to become a Division I institution. Such bold thinking was new for Merrimack, but despite these notions, President Hopey remained undeterred.

"Attaining Division I status seemed like the natural next step for our institution," said President Hopey. "Merrimack has always had the right pieces: the location, the culture, the student-athletes. Our Division I ice hockey teams laid the foundation for us to compete, and now our other sports teams are also positioned to succeed at the very highest level."

After eight years of hard work, Merrimack College accepted an invitation from the Northeast Conference's Council of Presidents in 2018 to become the league's 11th member. Beginning this season, Merrimack is competing at the Division I level and will become a full member of the conference in 2023–24, playing against in-conference competitors such as Bryant and Robert Morris and out-of-conference opponents such as Stanford, Northwestern and Michigan.

Merrimack Director of Athletics Jeremy Gibson said, "It was a process that took many years of proving that Merrimack has truly evolved. We worked with athletic directors, conference commissioners and, ultimately, the presidents of the other Division I schools to demonstrate that we would be a good partner for them and help raise the standing and stature of the conference."

## THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Since President Hopey's bold proclamation nearly a decade ago, Merrimack has undergone a marked transformation to distinguish itself among private residential colleges in the Northeast. With an emphasis on student success, the residential experience was dramatically enhanced with the addition of new academic buildings and athletic facilities. Beyond the physical infrastructure, Merrimack faculty and staff worked together to expand service learning experiences, interfaith opportunities and academic support services to enhance the student experience.

"The goal of becoming a Division I institution gave us something to aim toward. It galvanized our alumni and became a point of pride," explained President











"AS ONE OF ONLY
22 DIVISION I COLLEGES
IN NEW ENGLAND AND
363 IN THE COUNTRY,
WE'RE PART OF AN
ELITE GROUP." JEREMY GIBSON

Hopey. "It was a symbolic way to measure our transformation and chart a course that would set Merrimack apart from its peers," added Gibson.

## **DEMONSTRATING WARRIOR PRIDE**

Across campus, students, faculty, alumni and friends are flocking to Division I games. To the rousing cheers of more than 4,000 fans, Merrimack's football team kicked off its inaugural game in the Northeast Conference of NCAA Division I on August 31—soundly defeating Virginia University Lynchburg, 45-14. An even larger crowd was present during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 5, when 10,172 fans cheered on the Warriors.

No longer a hidden gem tucked in a New England enclave, Merrimack is receiving significant brand exposure and media attention on both a regional and national level.

"People are seeing Merrimack's name on ESPN and the ticker tape with the score updates," said Gibson. "Joining the Northeast Conference changes the profile of our institution. As one of only 22 Division I colleges in New England and 363 in the country, we're part of an elite group."

Becoming a Division I institution also raises the prestige of the College as a whole. "Many alumni feel their degree is worth more now than when they graduated," said President Hopey. "And we're dedicated to taking the necessary steps to ensure that the value of a Merrimack degree continues to rise."

## **ATTRACTING THE BEST**

Merrimack's extensive resources and programs—along with its strong career outcomes—are proving to hold great appeal to student-athletes, which has helped with recruiting. Says Gibson, "Student-athletes visit Merrimack and can visualize spending the next four years here. So, right out of the gate, we've been able to recruit some excellent Division I athletes."



The move to Division I is just another example of Merrimack's continued momentum. "Right now, our culture on campus is extremely positive. We feel like we can do anything—and young people want to be a part of it," said President Hopey. "Not only does Merrimack offer a unique educational experience, it now offers student-athletes the opportunity to compete against the best in the nation.'

## GOING FORWARD. GIVING BACK

Merrimack has always been committed to advancing the growth and wellbeing of the Merrimack Valley region. From volunteering to hosting public events to participating in municipal studies, Merrimack students, faculty and staff actively support the community in a variety of ways. As a Division I institution, the College has the opportunity to become an even greater asset to the Merrimack Valley.

"Not only do our athletic programs provide entertainment during the school year, our athletic facilities are also used for camps and youth programs over the summer," said President Hopey. "It's a way to engage our local community and for alumni to experience a greater level of pride," added Gibson.

## **WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED**

Attaining Division I status is the next milestone in Merrimack's journey. As the College's national profile rises, new investments are made, and the next classes of students set foot on campus, it will continue to evolve.

"Merrimack isn't just a collection of buildings; it's a tight-knit community of people. And now more than ever, we want alumni to return to campus," said President Hopey. "To all alumni, we say, come back and see us! Attend a game, take a look at how the campus has changed and experience the excitement for yourself."

## > AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Many alumni and friends helped make the vision of joining the Northeast Conference a reality. Most notably, generous gifts from the Duane and Gallant families helped ensure that Merrimack's facilities met Division I standards of excellence. **DUANE STADIUM** features a multipurpose field turf surface, an eight-lane track and capacity for 4,000 cheering fans, while GALLANT ARENA offers a state-of-the-art ice rink, newly renovated locker rooms, strength and conditioning facilities and an athletic training room - everything our athletes need to compete with confidence.



## For a full list of all Merrimack athletic events, please visit www.merrimackathletics.com/calendar





- **01 Men's Ice Hockey** vs UConn **7 p.m.** Lawler Rink
- **03 Men's Soccer** vs Fairleigh Dickinson **2 p.m.** Martone-Mejail Field
- **08 Women's Ice Hockey** vs Maine **2 p.m.** Lawler Rink
- **08 Women's Volleyball** vs Fairleigh Dickinson **6 p.m.** • Hammel Court
- **08 Men's Ice Hockey** vs Northeastern **7 p.m.** Lawler Rink
- O9 Women's Basketball vs Lehigh 1 p.m. • Hammel Court
- O9 Women's Volleyball vs Long Island University 4 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 10 Men's Soccer vs Bryant
  1 p.m. Martone-Mejail Field
- Women's Ice Hockey vs Holy Cross6 p.m. Lawler Rink
- 15 Women's Volleyball vs Sacred Heart 6 p.m. • Hammel Court
- **16 Football** vs Franklin Pierce **1 p.m.** Duane Stadium
- 16 Women's Basketball vs New Hampshire 6 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 20 Women's Basketball vs Eastern Nazarene 7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 22 Women's Ice Hockey vs Providence College 6 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 22 Men's Basketball vs Lesley 7 p.m. Hammel Court
- 23 Men's Ice Hockey vs Massachusetts 7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 27 Women's Ice Hockey vs Brown5 p.m. Lawler Rink
- 29 Men's Ice Hockey vs Penn State 7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- **30 Men's Ice Hockey** vs RPI **7 p.m.** Lawler Rink



## **DECEMBER 2019**

- O1 Women's Ice Hockey vs Holy Cross 2 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- O4 Women's Basketball vsFisher7 p.m. Hammel Court
- **06 Women's Ice Hockey** vs New Hampshire **6 p.m.** • Lawler Rink
- **07 Men's Ice Hockey** vs New Hampshire **7 p.m.** • Lawler Rink
- 11 Men's Basketball vs Army 7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 21 Women's Basketball vs UMass Lowell 1 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 29 Men's Ice Hockey vs Minnesota Duluth 4 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 29 Women's Basketball vs Vermont3 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 29 Men's Basketball vs Boston University 6 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 30 Men's Ice Hockey vs Minnesota Duluth 4 p.m. • Lawler Rink



## **JANUARY 2020**

- O4 Men's Ice Hockey vs UMass Lowell7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- O4 Men's Basketball vs Robert Morris 4 p.m. • Hammel Court
- O4 Women's Basketball vs Robert Morris 1 p.m. • Hammel Court
- **08 Women's Basketball** vs Bryant
  - **7 p.m.** Hammel Court
- O9 Men's Basketball vs Mount St. Mary's 7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 13 Women's Basketball vs Mount St. Mary's7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 15 Men's Basketball vs Bryant 7 p.m. Hammel Court
- 17 Men's Ice Hockey vs Boston University 7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 23 Men's Basketball vs Fairleigh Dickinson 7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 24 Men's Ice Hockey vs Vermont 7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 25 Women's Ice Hockey vs Boston University 2 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 25 Men's Ice Hockey vs Vermont 7 p.m. • Lawler Rink
- 27 Women's Basketball vs Fairleigh Dickinson 7 p.m. • Hammel Court
- 30 Men's Basketball vs Saint Francis Brooklyn 7 p.m. • Hammel Court



## **FEATURED AWAY EVENTS**



11.08.19 Men's Basketball at Northwestern 7 p.m. • Welsh-Ryan Arena



12.10.19 Women's Basketball at Illinois State Farm Center



01.04.20-01.05.20 Women's Ice Hockey vs Quinnipiac in Belfast, Ireland



**02.15.20 Men's Ice Hockey** at
Boston College
On NESN at
4:30 p.m. •
Conte Forum



**02.22.20 Men's Lacrosse**at Michigan •
U-M Lacrosse
Stadium



2019

## WELCOME HOME, WARRIORS

## **HOMECOMING RECAP**

From Macktoberfest to the Athletics Hall of Fame to the big game, Homecoming Weekend Oct. 4–5 offered something for everyone this year. Drawing more than 10,000 students, parents and alumni, Homecoming 2019 was one for the books for all Warrior fans.

Friday afternoon, men's soccer, women's volleyball, women's soccer and women's ice hockey took to the fields, courts and ice while five stellar former student-athletes were inducted into the Hall of Fame Class of 2019 during the evening.

Saturday started with the annual Warrior Run before the MACK Talks Breakfast in Cascia Hall, where faculty presented recent research and President Christopher E. Hopey conducted a live podcast in which he and Athletic Director Jeremy Gibson spoke of Merrimack's journey to becoming an NCAA Division I college.

Homecoming officially heated up with the tailgate party before the football game against Bryant University. In a sea of blue and gold, students, parents, alumni, faculty, trustees and staff watched as the Warriors took to the field to compete in their first DI conference game.

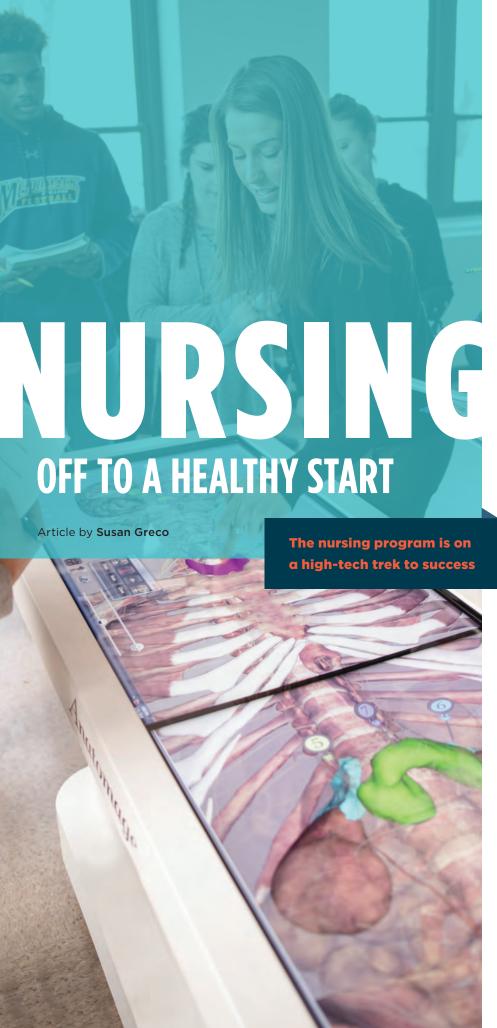




## The Hall of Fame Class of 2019:

Richard Fleming Jr. '97 (Men's Soccer), Stacey (Dell'Anno) Laganas '99 (Softball), Michelle Muise '88 (Women's Soccer), Antonio "Tony" Johnson '12 (Football), Ryan P. O'Rourke '10 (Baseball) are pictured with President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. (far left) and Athletic Director Jeremy Gibson (far right).





## The newest program at Merrimack College got off to a rousing start,

when 47 nursing students arrived for opening classes at the School of Health Sciences in O'Reilly Hall.

"It's an exciting time for the nursing program," Provost Allan T. Weatherwax, Ph.D. said. "These are some of the strongest students who applied to Merrimack."

There are 47 first-year nursing students enrolled in the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program, including three honors students and eight varsity student-athletes. One came from as far as Michigan.

With 725 applications, there is a strong foundation for growth. Over time, the College plans to enroll up to 100 students a year—and for good reason.

Amid a nationwide shortage of nurses, there's a growing demand for caregivers with a BSN. That need is expected to intensify as baby boomers get older, chronic illnesses increase and a wave of practitioners retire. In today's complex health care world, about twice as many nurses with a BSN are needed.

"Hospitals and other health care providers seek highly qualified and educated nurses," said Executive Director of Nursing Dr. Lynne Sheppard. She left a faculty post in the BSN program at St. Anselm College to join Merrimack in August 2018.

What's more, prospective students were asking the College for the BSN program, Weatherwax said. "They wanted nursing and they wanted the Merrimack experience."

## STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

"We think we have more to offer than other schools in the area," stated Weatherwax.

Nursing students use the Anatomage 3D medical imaging table to study a digital cadaver.



In fact, the nursing majors will soon have a state-of-the-art facility designed for them. Scheduled to open in January, the center features two floors of simulation laboratories, classrooms, study space and faculty offices for health sciences undergraduate and graduate programs.

"This is just the beginning of where we want to take the School of Health Sciences, nursing and health care in general."

PROVOST ALLAN WEATHERWAX

"The School of Health Sciences, and in particular the nursing program, has great potential for growth because the programs speak to students' desire to build lives and careers on providing service to others," President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., said at the May 1 groundbreaking ceremony.

Part of the funding came from the *Together for Good* Campaign.

## A HIGH-TECH APPROACH

A major investment in technology differentiates the Merrimack BSN program. For anatomy and physiology classes, for example, the School of Health Sciences invested in Anatomage virtual dissection tables and high-tech manikins. The 3D technology adds several dimensions to the study of body systems, since the digital cadavers are incredibly realistic.

When the nursing center opens, students will participate in experiential learning in six nursing simulation labs that look and function like hospital rooms, so that students can learn what's involved in medical-surgical nursing and specialties like pediatric nursing in a safe and supportive environment.

Students will practice nursing skills and clinical reasoning on high-tech manikins, which can transmit real-time "patient" data and thus tell students how they're doing as caregivers. Five CAE Juno manikins have been ordered and are due to arrive at the nursing center in December. Students will use these manikins this spring to learn basic skills such as how to take vital signs and communicate therapeutically with a patient. During their senior year, students will graduate to simulated traumas and other types of emergencies for the course in critical care nursing. Simulation instruction is an exciting new direction for the School of Health Sciences, noted Sheppard, who specializes in this discipline. There are already plans for interprofessional simulation experiences between athletic training and nursing majors.

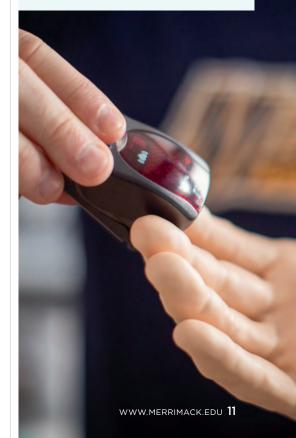
Two dedicated debriefing rooms in the nursing center provide relaxed spaces for students to review successes and mistakes with their instructors. "That's where student learning happens the most," said Sheppard.

## **MEET THE STUDENTS**

TRENTON CANO of Worcester,
Massachusetts, is thrilled to be in the
inaugural class of 47 nursing students.
"It's unique and exciting to be part of
Merrimack history," said Cano. (He's
also the first male.) He chose nursing
after shadowing a cousin who is a nurse
practitioner. "I definitely realized I want
to work with children."

CLAIRE CORETTI of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was recruited to play varsity lacrosse. "Merrimack was the perfect fit for me. I wanted to play lacrosse, and I wanted my bachelor's in nursing because that can take you to bigger places." Her ultimate goal? To become a nurse anesthetist, working alongside doctors to safely administer anesthesia.

JESSICA VAN HEYNIGEN of Chester, Massachusetts, is an honors student and a peer mentor, plays club soccer and works part time as a medical scribe. An experience shadowing in a hospital emergency department led her to nursing, where she was able to see how much nurses do. She loved the fast pace. "It was always exciting. I felt like I was in my element."



Simulation gives students hands-on experience in a safe environment before they take part in clinical hours at local hospitals. It allows students to practice, make mistakes and learn from them without any harm to a real person. In their final capstone, they'll log 208 hours of one-on-one time practicing and learning alongside a registered nurse.

To that end, the School of Health Sciences is forming clinical partnerships with at least 18 area medical and health care organizations, including Lawrence General Hospital, in Lawrence, Massachusetts; Holy Family Hospital, in Methuen, Massachusetts; and Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital, in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Merrimack's program is designed to teach students to think critically in fastpaced environments, using cutting-edge technology, while providing safe and compassionate care to diverse people and communities.

As students study mental health and bioethics, they'll also learn how to help patients through difficult times. Sheppard's first-year experience course is called "Using Skillful Communication to Master the Art of Nursing."

"We're building nurse leaders," said Sheppard.

## THE NEED TO INVEST

Looking back, Weatherwax and Sheppard are amazed at how quickly the many pieces of the program came together.

"We saw the need and did the analysis," Weatherwax said. "The School of Health Sciences is growing. It was an obvious but important decision to invest in nursing, so we fast-tracked the launch of the program."

From conception, to submitting an application to the state nursing board, to getting the application approved, to marketing the program, to admitting students—it all happened in just two years.

"You can't do it any faster than that," quipped Weatherwax.

## **JUST THE BEGINNING**

"This is just the beginning of where we want to take the School of Health Sciences, nursing and health care in general," said Weatherwax.

He can envision an MBA for nurses and perhaps a doctorate in nursing. As national trends indicate, Spanish-speaking nurses will be needed over the next thirty years. In order to meet this need, the College will be looking to hire another Spanish instructor.

The goal is to make Merrimack graduates more attractive in the marketplace and serve the greater good. "Our vision for nursing is to graduate students who are equipped with more than just clinical experience—it's about compassionate care and helping those who need it most," said Weatherwax.

Merrimack College has been granted Initial Approval status through the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing for the operation of its Baccalaureate Degree Registered Nurse Program.



## MERRIMACK'S OWN NAMED TO BOSTON **BUSINESS JOURNAL 40 UNDER 40**





The Boston Business Journal recently named MICHAELE MORROW, managing director of the Bouchard Center in the Girard School of Business, and Merrimack College trustee MARQUES D. TORBERT to its prestigious 40 Under 40 list.

The list recognizes civic-minded young professionals who are leaders in their industries.

"I was very honored and thrilled," the 39-year-old MORROW said after the announcement was made.

The Bouchard Center's mission is to prepare students to be effective business leaders. hands-on decision makers and ethical citizens in a business climate that values critical thinking and adaptability. To that end, it offers access to experiential learning opportunities that give Girard School of Business (GSB) graduates a competitive edge in launching successful careers.

When the opportunity to manage the Bouchard Center arose, Morrow recognized it as a great fit for her skill set and joined Merrimack in July.

"The Bouchard Center will provide GSB students with guidance and tangible support for career choices and preparation—this is meaningful to me as I wouldn't be where I am today without similar guidance from educators and mentors early on in my career journey," Morrow said.

"The Girard School is fortunate to have someone of Michaele's caliber as the inaugural leader of the Bouchard Center," said Dean Catherine Usoff. "With her leadership, we look forward to creating

innovative approaches to prepare students for a business world of accelerating change."

Morrow is a certified public accountant licensed in Texas. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting at West Texas A&M in Canyon, Texas, in 2001 and worked in public accounting in Texas.

She earned her doctorate at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, in 2008 before accepting a job as a professor of accounting at Northeastern University. In 2014 she took a job as a tax professor at Suffolk University where she earned tenure in 2017 and was promoted to full professor in February 2019. She was the director of the Center for Executive Education and program director for the Executive MBA program. Additionally, Morrow ran a low-income tax preparation center in Boston for 10 years, managing student volunteers who prepared tax returns for Boston-area residents and international students free of charge. She is also a national tax instructor for KPMG and PwC and is frequently quoted in the press for her research on tax policy issues.

Torbert earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

In addition to serving as a trustee for Merrimack College, he is a member of the board of directors of University School, a private all-boys K-12 school in Cleveland, Ohio, and a member of Ametros Financial Inc.'s board of directors.

"My career has had a balance of finance, investing and now operations," Torbert said. "Through those positions, I've been able to experience some variety in my career. I've had many mentors, coaches and family members that have been my biggest advocates and support system. I've learned from many of these people who I consider my 'personal board of directors' to help make the best decisions in my career."

Torbert said he chose his most recent career because it gives him a chance to help people, whether they are clients or fellow workers.

"My company, Ametros, works closely to help those injured in personal injury accidents live happier, healthier and more productive lives," he said. "However, in the process of helping those constituents, I've also been able to build a company that helps so many others, including my colleagues and employees at the company. Those two factors bring a lot of satisfaction to me!"

TORBERT is the chief executive officer at Ametros Financial in Boston. The firm is a leader in the health care and insurance services industry, focused on using state-of-the-art technology, ever-changing

innovations and world class service to revolutionize how medical care and health care payment processing is coordinated for patients, insurance payers and providers.

He previously worked on Wall Street as an investor, advisor and strategist for insurance and business services companies and firms; and before that he was an investment banker in New York.

The list recognizes civic-minded young professionals who are leaders in their industries.

## **BOLSTERING OUR RANKS WITH** THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Merrimack College is excited to welcome three new deans to campus this fall where they are leading the School of Health Sciences, the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Science and Engineering. Additionally, the College is pleased to welcome 18 new faculty members to meet the educational needs of Merrimack's growing undergraduate and graduate school populations.



## **New Academic Deans**



JANET WHATLEY BLUM, SC.D. DEAN AND PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. Blum holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Maine, a graduate degree from Northeastern University and a doctor of science from Boston University. Blum started her career as a clinical exercise physiologist at hospitals in the Boston area but held both research and academic positions at the University of Nebraska, Kearney; Westfield State University in Massachusetts; and the University of Southern Maine. Her research has focused on the prevention and treatment of obesity in both adults and children. That research has included large, randomized clinical trials, as well as more community and public health based research.



KAREN RYAN, PH.D. DEAN AND PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Ryan earned an undergraduate degree from Cornell University, a graduate degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Michigan. Ryan has had a prodigious career as a teacher, scholar and administrator. She taught Russian language, literature and culture at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts; Iowa State University; and the University of Virginia (UVA). While at UVA she served as chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures: as associate dean of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Additionally, Ryan was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, from 2012 to 2017. Her research focuses on Russian literary satire.



NAIRA CAMPBELL-KYUREGHYAN, PH.D. DEAN AND PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Dr. Campbell-Kyureghyan earned an undergraduate degree from Yerevan Polytechnic Institute in Armenia, a graduate degree in electrical and control engineering from the State Engineering University of Armenia, a master of science in engineering from American University of Armenia/University of California and a doctorate in industrial engineering/ biomechanics from The Ohio State University. Campbell-Kyureghyan arrives on campus with a distinguished curriculum vitae and a track record of raising more than \$25 million. She has worked the past 10 years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, including five years as chair of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. During that time, departmental undergraduate and graduate enrollment increased three-fold under her leadership.

## New Faculty

## LEENA BHARATH, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Health Sciences

## **ERINN CUNNIFF GILSON, PH.D.**

Associate Professor, Philosophy

## **KIRSTIE LYNN DOBBS**

Lecturer, Political Science and Public Policy

## **JAMES HOWLAND, ED.D., LICSW**

Assistant Professor of Practice, School Counseling

## JANET IERARDI, PH.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Nursing

## **SEUNGGU KANG**

Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering

## **BRIGID KILLIAN**

Lecturer, Mathematics

## **SEUNG-HWAN KIM, PH.D.**

Assistant Instructional Professor, Biology

## **MARYAM MASHAYEKHZADEH**

Lecturer, Civil Engineering

## **RUTH MCKENZIE, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor, Human Development and Human Services

## **BRADLEY MILLER, PH.D.**

Lecturer, Political Science; and Director, Master of Public Affairs

## **RAYMOND MOONEY '90**

Professor of Practice, Criminology and Criminal Justice

## KILHOE "MIRANDA" NA, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Communication and Media

## **MEREDITH PARRY, ED.D.**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences

## WALKER ROBINS, PH.D.

Lecturer, History

## **DAVID GERARDO ZELAYA, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor, Psychology

## **TINGTING ZHANG, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor, Organizational Studies and Analytics

## YILONG "ERIC" ZHENG, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Marketing





















## **New Appointments**

Merrimack College is committed to its mission of being a leader in higher education with the brightest and most innovative professionals in their fields. We are proud to share the following new appointments:

## DARREN CONINE

Vice President, Enrollment and Dean of Admission

## **ALLISON GILL**

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

## MERRIMACK ALUM SERVING AS INTERIM **CHIEF RANGER AT YELLOWSTONE**



Leslie Reynolds '91 traded great white **sharks for grizzly bears** last summer while taking a break from her job as chief ranger at the National Park Service's Cape Cod National Seashore to serve as the interim chief ranger at Yellowstone National Park.

She's been the chief ranger on the Cape for seven years and before that worked as chief ranger at Shenandoah National Park, as a district ranger at Yosemite National Park and in numerous other field leadership positions, as well as Grand Canyon patrol.

Reynolds majored in business management at Merrimack while holding three jobs and membership in the Sigma Phi Omega sorority as a commuter student. She has fond memories of Merrimack and still stays in touch with some of her sorority sisters.

"The thing I remember most is, the size of the College was conducive to a really positive college experience," she said.

Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly offered the interim job to Reynolds when Chief Ranger Pete Webster was named deputy superintendent of Glacier National Park.

"Leslie is one of the best chief rangers and managers in this agency, and we're very pleased to have her here in Yellowstone," Sholly said. "She has an incredible range of experience in many parks, and her leadership perspectives will be highly valued here."

Rangers are the law enforcement division of the National Park Service. They protect people from other people; protect people against the hazards of the parks, such as getting lost in the woods; and protect the park from people who are tempted to collect souvenirs from the natural resources, deface national monuments or go into closed areas.

"Really, what the National Park Service is all about is protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources that are in our parks for future generations," Reynolds said.

As Yellowstone's interim chief ranger, Reynolds is overseeing a \$16 million division budget and a team of 170 employees.

It wasn't until after leaving Merrimack that Reynolds decided to pursue a career in the National Park Service. She visited the Grand Canyon in Arizona during a road trip and that set her career path.

"I immediately fell in love with the Grand Canyon and said, 'I have to come here to work," Reynolds recalled.

She got a job at the concession stand that was run by an independent contractor. She developed friendships with park rangers and volunteers who got her thinking about a career with the National Park Service. After earning certifications for structural fire and as an emergency medical technician, Reynolds attended a law enforcement academy before landing a seasonal job at Yosemite National Park in White Wolf Campground in 1995.

"Really, what the National Park Service is all about is protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources that are in our parks for future generations."

LESLIE REYNOLDS '91

Since then she has had extensive training and experience in everything from mounted horse patrol to helicopter rescue and swift water rescue.

At the Cape, park rangers teach swimmers the safety precautions of swimming in waters with sharks, but at Yellowstone visitors must understand that even though they are on dry land, they are not the top of the food chain. There is plenty of wildlife in Yellowstone that can't be seen on the Cape, and since starting her job June 18, Reynolds has seen grizzly bears, bison and elk.

"I haven't seen a wolf in the wild but I'm hopeful," she said.

As the calendar turned to September and autumn approached, Reynolds remained at Yellowstone National Park, waiting for a permanent chief ranger to be named. No matter which direction Reynolds' career goes in the future, she knows it's been a success.

"I have always loved my job and know I have made a difference," Reynolds said. "At the end of the day - or my career -I'm going to feel really good about that."

## 46th BEST REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES NORTH

TOP TOP MOST INNOVATIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

35<sup>th</sup>

BEST UNDERGRADUATE
TEACHING PROGRAMS FOR
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IN THE NORTH CATEGORY

**42**nd

BEST VALUE SCHOOLS FOR THE REGION

TIME RANKING
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING RANKED
FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR
ITS UNDERGRADUATE
ENGINEERING PROGRAM

## MERRIMACK CLIMBS U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S RANKING OF BEST COLLEGES



Merrimack College continued its steady climb up U.S. News & World Report magazine's Best Colleges rankings this year, leaping from 50th a year ago to 46th for the 2020 list released Sept. 9. It also listed Merrimack among the top 10 most innovative

regional universities.

"We are proud of our steady ascent in these rankings," said Merrimack College President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "After spending the last decade investing heavily in our students, faculty, programs and campus, it is gratifying to receive an external endorsement of our strategic vision."

The magazine ranked 170 universities, including Merrimack, in the North region. The region stretches from Maryland in the mid-Atlantic to Maine and includes Pennsylvania and New York.

Merrimack finished in a tie for the 35th spot among best undergraduate teaching programs for regional universities in the North category.

It also ranked 42nd on the list of Best Value Schools for the region.

Merrimack's School of Science and Engineering ranked for the first time for its undergraduate engineering program among engineering schools without doctorate programs.

"This recognition by U.S. News & World Report is validation of the fantastic work being done at Merrimack College," said Provost Allan T. Weatherwax, Ph.D. "Our professors are committed to providing our students every opportunity and advantage to help them become better professionals in their chosen fields."

The magazine surveyed 1,922 colleges and universities and then broke them into national and regional universities, national liberal arts colleges and regional colleges categories.

The regional universities and colleges were then placed in geographic categories, according to the magazine.
Regional universities offer a full range of undergraduate programs and offer master's degrees but seldom offer doctoral programs.



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Merrimack's distinctive approach to providing a stellar student experience in the classroom, paired with learning and growing outside the classroom through our community partners, is what makes Merrimack unique.

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## A VISIONARY, A LOYAL SON AND A TRUE WARRIOR

IN MEMORIAM

"He was a humble and kind person—a rare quality that we don't see much anymore."

> DR. CHRISTOPHER E. HOPEY. PRESIDENT



## FRANCIS "FRANK" E. GIRARD '62, H'16, P'17,

friend, alumnus, visionary and longtime benefactor of Merrimack College, has left a long and enduring legacy for future generations of Merrimack students. A 1962 B.S. graduate in business and benefactor of the Girard School of Business, which bears his name, Frank was fondly remembered by College leaders, friends, fellow alumni and family at a funeral mass in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher this fall. Frank, 80, died peacefully on Monday, Sept. 2, with his beloved wife, Henriette, and family by his side.

"The Merrimack College community is in mourning after the loss of Frank, and we miss him greatly," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "Those who knew him will always remember him as a builder, a visionary and a leader who had tremendous impact on this College, its

students, faculty and staff. He will always be remembered as a Warrior."

From humble beginnings and a promise to his mother to finish college, Girard began a successful business career as an industrial photographer and then went on to become the chief executive officer of Comverse Network Systems. A successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and businessman, he held top positions at Boston Technology Inc. (1989-1998), NEC Information Systems (1985-1989) and Wang Key Data (1983-1985). Girard was a member of the International Engineering Consortium and held the position of director of the Massachusetts Telecommunications Council, During the same time, he remained involved at Merrimack. His commitment to the College and School of Business was praised by leadership, and in 1999 the business school was named in his honor in recognition of his transformational gift to the school. Girard's wish was that, by his example. others would be inspired to increase their support to the College as well.

A member of the board of trustees. President's Advisory Council, and College Leadership Council, Girard was remembered by President Hopey as a man with spirit, tenacity and resilience, with extraordinary dedication to hard work and family and characterized by perseverance and lovalty. Girard was generous with his time and was a strong advocate for education and a loyal partner to his alma mater.

"Frank was honest and authentic." President Hopey reminisced. "He was a humble and kind person—a rare quality that we don't see much anymore." A loyal son of Merrimack, Girard and his generosity of spirit, intelligence and kindness will be deeply missed.



# COME BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FARN YOUR GRADUATE DEGREE.

## **Girard School of Business**

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

## **School of Education and Social Policy**

- Catholic School Leadership, Graduate Certificate (online)
- Community-Based Nonprofit Leadership, Graduate Certificate (online)
- Community Engagement, M.Ed.
- Criminology and Criminal Justice, M.S.
- Educational Leadership, CAGS (online)
- 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)
- 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.
- Healthcare Analytics, M.S. (online)

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Merrimack celebrated the success of the record-breaking *Together for Good* Campaign with a special *Together We Did* finale celebration on Sept. 12, 2019, to honor the incredible generosity and support of the Merrimack community.

Raising a total of \$63.5 million in gifts and commitments, *Together for Good* inspired more than 13,000 donors. This included 7,000 first-time donors, whose contributions to the College propelled Merrimack to surpass its ambitious goal of \$50 million.

The finale celebration highlighted the significance of Merrimack's past, the remarkable strength of its recent accomplishments and aspirations for even greater levels of achievement in the future. More than 350 guests, including alumni, friends, faculty and staff, gathered on campus to reflect on the monumental accomplishments of the campaign.

"Merrimack's strength has always come from the dedication and determination of our alumni, faculty and staff—individuals who are committed to creating a better future," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D. "The past seven years have laid the groundwork for great transformation, and as we continue to grow and evolve, the success of the *Together for Good* Campaign reminds us of what we are truly capable of when we come together."























## **ALUMNI NEWS**

## 1970s

## >> TERRY MONAHAN '72

recently won second place in the California Newspaper Publishers Association writing contest and first place from the Society of Professional Journalists, San Diego Chapter, for a story in the Pomerado News in San Diego about a high school football player who could not play his junior season because he was discovered to have bipolar disorder. Doctors found medication that worked for him, he focused on his schoolwork and he played his senior year on a team that won the league title.

**▶ MICHELE SURAT '75** recently won an international fellowship through the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts for her poetry. Surat was a resident at the Moulin à Nef Artists' Colony in Auvillar, France, in August 2019.

## 1980s

## >> LAURIE BURZLAFF '89,

executive assistant to the town manager of North Andover, was named to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's "Unsung Heroines" list in June 2019 for her role in organizing and administering disaster relief in the aftermath of the gas explosions that occurred in Sept. 2018.

## 1990s

>> RICHARD E. DAVIS JR. '90 was promoted to captain and executive officer of the Major Investigations Division, Middletown Police Department in Middletown, Connecticut.







- >> LOUIS "LOU" A. FRATE II '91 sold his company, Patriot Energy, in June 2019.
- >> ERMINIO GRASSO '95 was promoted to chief operating officer of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New England.
- >> JOSEPH SAWICKI '96 was one of 100 athletic performance professionals invited to attend the United States Olympic Committee High Performance Strength and Conditioning Symposium at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He also has been invited to serve as a strength and conditioning coach for the USA Hockey Girls Under-15 Player Development Camp in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
- >> KERRY BAMRICK '98 was appointed executive director of the National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium.
- MARY-ANN (BRENES) **DITHOMAS '98** was named vice president of delivery for Genuine Interactive, a digital marketing agency located in Boston.
- >> JEFFREY CARON '99 became vice principal at Greater New **Bedford Regional Vocational** Technical High School in August 2019.

>> RICHARD R. HAYWARD JR. '99 was promoted to executive vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer at Clinton Savings Bank.

## 2000s

## MICHAEL C. STEWART '00

was elected to serve as commissioner of the Greenville County (South Carolina) Soil and Water Conservation District in November 2018.

- >> RONALD SPERLICH '00 has been elected vice president and general manager of the **Interface Products Business** Unit at Texas Instruments.
- >> DEBRA (CHRISTENSON) WILLARD '01 stepped into the boxing ring on October 9 for a fundraiser known as "Belles of the Brawl." an allwomen's boxing event for the charity Haymakers for Hope. Proceeds from the event go directly to Dana-Farber and other local cancer charities in Boston. Willard trained seven days a week, sometimes two or three times a day, while working as a resident engineer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and being a mom to her boys, Parker (10) and Piers (4).
- >> JENN (CACCAVARO) KOSSES '02 earned her doctorate in education from Northeastern

University. Kosses currently serves as the assistant dean of students at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

- >> JULIE DAIGLE '05 has been named executive director of the Peabody Area Chamber of Commerce.
- >> ANNE (BEAVER) GIORDANO '06 and MATTHEW GIORDANO '07 recently welcomed their third child, Liam Joseph. [1]
- >> HELEN (BACHERMAN) **CHAMBERLIN '08** and Derek Chamberlin recently were married. In attendance were Merrimack alumni Julie Wong '08, Christine Reino '09, Caitlin Cavanaugh '08, Allison (Sagui) Vigil '08, Kirstin (Maloney) Fitzgerald '08, Jason Kissel '08, Yesika Bravo '10 and Melissa Fuimara '09. [2]
- >> JOE MARTIGNETTI '09 and his brothers are opening Faces Brewing Co. in Malden, Massachusetts. The restaurant and brewery is slated to open by the end of 2019.

## 2010s

>> RICHARD "RICH" MATSON '11 passed his professional engineer civil licensure examination and is now a professional engineer.

## >> DANIELLE DONOVAN '13

was named to the "Women to Watch" list in 2019 by the Massachusetts Society of CPAs.

>> JENNA REILLY '13, M'14 and **GARRETT BOYD '11** were married on Friday, May 10, 2019, at Bedford Village Inn in Bedford, New Hampshire. Merrimack alumni in attendance included Kayla Caruso '13, Brianne Romkey '13, Jake Bradley '11, Joe Clancy '13, Conor Larkin '14, Mark Donovan '14, Danielle Hardee M'15 and Hannah Ketchen M'14. [3]

## >> KRISTINA WILLIAMSON '14

has left mornings at Mainestream Media Rhythmic Contemporary Hit Radio "Hot 104.7" WHTP Kennebunkport/ Portland, Maine, to join iHeartMedia CHR "Channel 95.5" WKQI Detroit under the new on-air name of "Krissy T."

## **IN MEMORY**

Stephen F. McNally Jr. '54 Edward "Ed" H. Whalley Jr. '54 Mary Ellen Sullivan '56 Rene V. Voisine '56 Joan Foster '57. GP'16 John J. McDaid '57, P'87 Thomas H. Pendergast Jr. '57 Edward "Ted" G. Atwood '61 Roland E. Mitchell '62 Robert G. Thibault '62 Stephen E. Hart '64 Virginia "Ginny" T. McKenna '64 Richard M. Rozzi '64 Lester C. LaFreniere '66 Kenneth R. Barbin '71 William M. Horan '74 Karen J. Graham '77 Luverna C. Harris '79 Loriann M. Sheridan '85

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.









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## **NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE**

The accomplishments and shared expertise of Merrimack's exceptional faculty

PETER ELLARD, dean of student success and academic support, who also teaches environmental ethics and religious studies, had his article "Don't Think Your Campus Needs to Prepare for Climate Change? Here's Why You're Wrong" published in The Chronicle of Higher Education. In the article, he argues that colleges and universities must adjust to weather changes caused by climate change.

JULIANA COHEN, assistant professor of nutrition in the School of Health Sciences, was a featured expert in a Time magazine article exploring whether sugar is as bad for children as it is for adults. She was then interviewed by the Washington Post newspaper and the long-running television show Good Morning America for a story on school lunches that aired Aug. 28, 2019.

ANDREA COHEN, executive director of The Writers House, marked the publication of her sixth book of poetry, "Nightshade." The 73-poem collection released by Four Way Books of New York received critical acclaim for its playfulness and profound truths. The Washington Independent Review of Books called the free-verse poems "humorous, smart and irresistible reading."

JONATHAN LATIANO, assistant professor of visual and performing arts, is working on a two-year sculpting project in his South End studio in Boston that he plans to unveil at the Rogers Center for the Arts' McCoy Gallery in October 2020. Using a Provost Innovation Grant awarded by the Sakowich Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities program last summer, he hired students as studio assistants.

KATHRYN WELBY, assistant professor of practice for special education and director of the K-12 Teacher Preparation Program, had an article published in the prestigious Phi Delta Kappan magazine. The article, "Coping with the Opioid Crisis: Teachers Need Support Right Now," details results of her research on the personal impact that the opioid epidemic has on teachers and how school administrations are largely unprepared for the crisis. The research is part of her 300page dissertation.

School of Education Associate Dean RUSS OLWELL and Graduate Education Department associate professor **AUDREY FALK** organized the second annual Community Engagement Institute this year. Participants attended lectures and panel discussions as well as field trips to sites in Lawrence, Massachusetts, including Merrimack's Hands to Help. Community engagement addresses local problems through available resources so the institute helps the campus work better with the community, Olwell said.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

## NOVEMBER

## 01-08 Mack Gives Back Week

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

An O'Brien Center for Career Development initiative for seniors designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and connections to thrive in the professional world 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

Make a donation to Merrimack on this global celebration of philanthropy that kicks off the holiday giving season. A gift in any amount 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

Save the date for what's bound to be another evening of fun holiday festivities for alumni, faculty, staff and friends

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

## 14 Dining with the Diva

Share wine, song and great food, as acclaimed mezzo-soprano Christina Lamberti performs her music and prepares her favorite Mediterranean recipes for all to enjoy 4 p.m. • Rogers Center

## JANUARY

## 17-18 Shrek-Fest: FREE Film Festival

Relive the magic, music, comedy and adventures as the big green guy, Donkey, Princess Fiona and all your fairy tale faves grace the big screen in HD

Jan. 17 • 6 p.m. • Shrek • Rogers Center 9 p.m. • Shrek II • Rogers Center Jan. 18 • 12 p.m. • Shrek the Third • Rogers Center 2:30 p.m. • Shrek Forever After • Rogers Center

## FEBRUARY

## 07-08 LOVE & HORROR: FREE Film Festival

Kill Bill Volume I & II: when love goes wrong, it's martial arts mayhem in Quentin Tarantino's two-part classic

Feb. 7 • 6 p.m. • Kill Bill Volume I • Rogers Center 9 p.m. • Kill Bill Volume II • Rogers Center



IT Chapter 1 & 2: a group of bullied kids band together to destroy a shape-shifting monster that disguises itself as a clown, emerges from the sewer and preys on the children of Derry, their small Maine town

Feb. 8 • 3 p.m. • IT Chapter 1 • Rogers Center 7 p.m. • IT Chapter 2 • Rogers Center

## 20-23 & 27-29 Proof: The Pulitzer Prize-winning play

Student Series — A Department of Visual and Performing Arts Production

The story of an enigmatic young woman, her manipulative sister, their brilliant father and an unexpected suitor

Feb. 20, 21 and 22 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center Feb. 23 • 2 p.m. • Rogers Center Feb. 27 and 28 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center Feb. 29 • 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

## MARCH

## 18-21 The Old Man and The Old Moon

The epic tale of an old man who must abandon his duties of filling up the moon with liquid light to cross the seas in search of his missing wife

March 18 • 11 a.m. • Rogers Center March 19 • 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center March 20 • 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center March 21 • 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

## 28 Broadway's NEXT HIT Musical!

In this hilarious, unscripted show, master improvisers gather made-up song suggestions from the audience to create a spontaneous evening of music, humor and laughter 7:30 p.m. • Rogers Center

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