**Merrimack College**

74th Commencement | Class of 2024

The Winston School of Education and Social Policy

Thursday, May 16, 2024

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**MACE BEARER**

James Howland, EdD, Program Director and Associate Professor of Practice, Master of Social Work

**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

Honorary Degree Recipient

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**Erika Giampietro, Founding Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance for Early College

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT**Erika Giampietro, Founding Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance for Early College

**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

Jacqueline Abdallah

Stephen Adagwuni

Rachel Adam

Jillian Adamson

Dinebari Adumene

Julia Afflitto

Claire Aki-Cobham

Haley Alcott

Jacob Alcott

Tatyana Aleinikau

Mark Almy

Michael Aloisi

Kayla Anderson

Haley Andersson

Tyler Angers

Emily Anyon

Bridget Austin

Erin Avila

Bailey Avisata-Taylor

Nicole Baddour

Kerrie Bagni

Allison Bakanowsky

Sarah Balestro

Lindsay Barbash

Gabriella Barbuto

Erika Barresi

Kerry Barrett

Zachary Barry

Benjamin Batchelder

Darnnellyz Batista

Losangela Batista

Madison Baumann

Susan Bayer-Larson

Thomas Beasley

Mariel Beaumier

Adam Belanger

Michael Belanger

Elizabeth Belbin

Katlynn Bell

Spencer Benoit

Kayla Berardi

Kerry-Ann Bernard

Jessie Berry

Shai Bigelow

Laura Bigwood

A’mari Bing-Way

Leah Block

Jamie Boghosian

Laura Boguslavskiy

Vanessa Bonanno

Julia Borriello

Samantha Boucher

Brooke Boulds

Venessa Bourgeois

Shea-lynn Bowen

Matthew Breen

Amber Brewster

Jessica Brewster

Stephanie Brincklow

Ryan Brooks

Rochelle Brothers

Alyssa Brown

Andrew Brown

Christopher Brown

Lauren Brown

Takiyah Brown

Lauren Buckminster

Lindsay Bukowinski

Gina Burke

Jennifer Burke

Cara Burns

Samantha Cabral

Abigail Cain

Kelsey Callahan

Katherine Callery

Catherine Camara

Hugh Cameron

Jaclyn Campano

Samantha Campbell

Emma Campion

Jillian Carbone

Rachele Carbutt

Emily Caren

Johanna Carr

Riley Carrier

Katelyn Carroll

Suzanne Carroll

Reid Carter

Jordan Caruso

Abigail Carven

Cameron Casella

Louvin Casimir

Vanessa Chambers

Morgan Chase

Shawn Chase

Carlie Cherry

Sydney Chillo

Brianne Christopher

Alyson Cipro

Melanie Clinton

Callie Coady

Ashley Cocchiaro

Melissa Cochrane

Alexandra Colella

Mackenzie Collins

David Comalli

Sarah Conley

Kevin Conlon

Sara Connolly

Deanna Conte

Nicholas Conti

Tiffany Coogan

Justin Cook

Serena Cook

Justin Cordeiro

Kelly Corrigan

Kelly Costa

Danielle Cotton

Kate Crane

Kayleigh Crocker

Courtney Cronin

Christine Crowe

Olivia Crowley

Patricia Curbelo

Jeremy Curley

Keaghan Curley

Ashley Cutter

Demimarie Dabilis

Kiley Dallas

Liliana Dalmer

Elizabeth Daly

Kelsey Daly

William Damaskos

Mia Dambra

Cristina Daniels

Chanell DaSilva

Ashley Davies

Shaina Dawes

Kenisha De La Rosa

Gianpiero de Mari

Olivia DeCecca

Gabriella DeGrazia

Victoria Delannoy

Olivia DellIsola

Marissa Delucia

Christina Delyani

Jacob DeMasi-Capua

Brittany Dempsey

Anna Dennis

Ashley DiBella

Emily DiBella

Alaina DiBlasi

Alyssa DiBlasi

Molly Dickerson

Mark Dilegge

Meghan Doane

Patric Docmanov

Kelli Doherty

Ryan Donahue

Laura Dooley

Jamie Dostoomian

Benjamin Doucette

Sarah Douglas

Caitlin Doyle

Danielle Driscoll

Melissa Driver

Taylor Dudek

Abigail Duggan

Daisha Dukes

Bianca Dulkis

Heather Durbrow

Emily Durkin

Hannah Dziadyk

Olivia Dziadyk

Mikala Eacrett

Amy Eason-LeFort

Maria Eaton

Matthew Eaton

Mary Edmonds

Abigail Egan

Jeffrey Ehalt

Kimberly Eldredge

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Will English

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Jacqueline Errera

Ana Espinal

Christopher Estevez

Thalia Estevez

Mackenzie Evans

Stephen Evans

Julia Fader-Laskin

Jenna Faichney

Kristen Falso

Ivette Fantauzzi Picart

Julienne Fares

Ashley Farfaras

Laurine Faro

Kerry Farrell

Megan Fedele

Joseph Feeney

Isabel Fernandes

Shanelle Fernandez

Antonio Ferreira

Lauryn Field

Rachel Figucia

Sarah Finamore

Sierra Fiore

Giulia Fiorentino

Alison Fisher

Haley Fitzgerald

Lia Fitzgerald

Noelle Fitzpatrick

Lindsay Flaherty

Delaney Fliegel

Jessica Flynn

Erin Foley

John Foley

William Foley

Johanna Ford-Hunt

Shawna Fox

Tanya Franklin

Nicole Freeman

Sabrina Fullam

Tyler Furnari

Maeve Gaffney

Amy Gagliardi

Keri Gagnon

Diona Gambini

David Gardner

Thomas Garland

Kadyn Germain

Brianna Germano

Vanessa Gerring

Ann Gerry

Alison Giglio

Sarah Gilbert

Alyssa Giordano

Alexander Gohl

Dimitry Goin

Danielle Gomes

Shaez Gomes

Nieves Gomez

Gloribel Gonzalez

Cameron Goodman

Kendra Gordon

Alyssa Gorman

Amanda Goscinski

Heidi Gould

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Kathleen Hartnett

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Michael Karon

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Kasey Kavanaugh

Maeve Keane

Catharine Keeffe

Christina Keith

Benjamin Kelleher

Victoria Kelliher

Jenna Kelly

Meghan Kelly

Lyndsay Kennedy

Shannan Kennedy

Jennifer Kenney

Ashley Kesack

Sydney Keyes

Cintia Khouzami

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Kerry Kilduff

Catherine Kimani

Meagan King

Shelby Kirejczyk

Kaylee Knox

Adam Kohnle

Stephen Kohnle

Ziba Kolahy-Shams

Rachel Kornreich

Matthew Korzec

Sebastien Labissiere

Kaleena Laguerre

Karima Lahyani

Ciara Lally

Emily Lamkin

Renee Lamy

Meredith Lane

Timothy Lang

Derryn Langlois

Cameron Lankenau

Madelyn Lapierre

Jordan Laplume

Emily Larkin

Hanna Lawler

Brandi LeBlanc

Kaitlin LeBlanc

Lisa Leedy

Sean Leehan

Megan Leger

Presley Leighton

Mackenzie LeLievre

Haroldo Leme

Johanna Lesch

Alysha Letendre

Sheila Lethin

Caitlin Letourneau

Patricia Levitre

Helena Liedtke

Sarah Liekweg

Marlaina Linnane

Madeleine Linschoten

Kaleigh Litchfield

Ryan Loftus

Daniella Lombardo

Gabriella Lombardo

Brooke Lonergan

Kristina Long

Amanda Lougee

Abbey Loughlin

Kara Lowkes

Haley Lowney

Haleigh Lucas

Cecelia Lunde

Patricia Lyna

Megan Lyons

Colleen Macdonald

Erin Mackey

William MacKinlay

Michelle MacPherson

Christine Maggio

Shannon Maglione

Brianna Mahoney

Daniel Mahoney

Mariely Maldonado

Maria Maldonado Cruz

Michelle Manatrey

Janet Manning

Laura Marino

Giana Marks

Nathaniel Marotta

Jaminnette Marquez

Kiley Martel

Kyle Martin

Sarah Martin

Aiman Masalawala

Nicole Mastrantonio

Kaylen Mawdsley

Faith May

Casey McAuliffe

Natalie McBeath

Patrick McCarter

Brooke McCarthy

Jaelen McCarthy

Keara McCartney

Christopher McCoy

Timothy M. McCue

Andrea McDonald

Timothy McDonough

Caitlin McElwaney-Rio

Shannon McGrath

Lori McHenry-Gildae

Hana McLinden

Maggie McManus

Owen McMullen

Serena McNary

Audrey McQueen

Angela McVey

Rosmery Medrano

Natasha Mercuri

Marie Merlino

Morgan Messina

Stephanie Messina

Benjamin Miele

Joanna Mills-Reid

Lindsey Minchello

Belinda Miranda

Bryce Miranda

Katherine Mitchell Moreno

Hannah Mobilia

Emma Moffatt

Celeste Molle

Tamara Mondesir

Meghan Mongeau

Jake Moniz

Jessica Moniz

Christopher Mooney

Ashlee Morgan

Caroline Morgan

Isabella Morgan

Abigail Morin

Joseph Morin

Katelyn Morin

John Morris

Louisa Morrow

Marykate Mulcahy

Amanda Murphy

Michelle Murphy

Ryan Murphy

Amanda Murray

Jordan Muse

Corinne Newell

Jessica Nicholas

Ashley Nightingale

Alison Ning

Hannah Nitescu

Shaista Noreen

Kaela Noyes

Starlina Nunez

Kathryn O’Brien

Julie O’Connor

Sean O’Connor

Charlena O’Keefe

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Patricia Oduah

Jennifer Ogonowski

Samantha Oliver

Nicole Olsen

Sandra Olsen

Christine Ortiz

Joshua Page

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Katlyn Paiva

Kyle Palladino

Jocelyn Palmer

Kayla Palmer

Olivia Pantano

Tyler Papciak

Clarice Papp

Shaylyn Parkhurst

Katelyn Parziale

Maya Patel

Kaley Patriquin

Michael Patterson

Dorothy Paul

Christina Pedersen

Brittany Peoples

Julia Pepka

Elise Persicketti

Jonathan Peters

Christine Peterson

Lily Peterson

Christine Phillips

Crissel Pineda

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Nancy Lyn Pompeo

Yismark Ponce

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Ariana Portalla

Jessica Porter

Jessica Potito

Alisa Povenmire

Claire Powell

Tiana Powell

Edward Prajzner

Mary Pratt

Evan Prees

Michael Preston

Michael Price

Alexandra Proch

Candace Proulx

Marissa Puccio

Miranda Putnam

Stephanie Quezada

Franklin Quijada

Kyle Quinzani

Sarah Quirbach

Joseline Ramirez

Benjamin Ramos

Joshly Ramos

Julia Ray

Kevin Reddington

Joseph Reen

Ariana Reid

Damara Reid

Caitlin Reilly

Sheri Reilly

Caroline Ren

Rachel Resendes

Erin Reynolds

Claire Rhatigan

Julia Ricci

Bryna Richards

Jordan Riggs

Olivia Riley

Matthew Rinaldi

Alexander Risberg

Samantha Roberts

Conner Robertson

Eileen Rockwell

Racheal Rodimak

Jessica Rodrigues

Joshua Rodriguez

Elizabeth Rogers

Cheryl Rooney

Amy Roos

Edgar Rosario Marrero

Antonia Rosati

Jillian Rowland

Alexander Royer

Olivia Russell

Siobhan Salani

Sasha Sammis

Enrique Sanchez

Kara Sands

Nicollette Santiago

Cassandra Santos

Rita Saraiva

Abigail Sarraf

Shelby Sawtelle

Evan Scarlett

Ellery Schiller

Nicole Schmidt

Stephanie Schneider

William Schoenberger

Amy Schram

Jenna Scott

Isabella Scuderi

Mary Seltzer

Samantha Shanahan

Jessica Shay

Aidan Shea

Meghan Shea

Rachel Sheehan

Kyle Sherrick

Spencer Shock

Eliza Shulman

Kenneth Shute

Arielle Silva

Tayla Silva

Kim Silverman

Elizabeth Simmons

Rose Simplice

Clare Simpson

Peter Skaza

Amy Smith

Ei Phyu Smith

Kaitlyn Sok

Nicole Solimine

Abbi Solomon

William Spirdione

Riley Spring

Christopher Staniul

Tanya Stanley

Molly Staunton

Emily Stefanich

Cameron Steig

Michelleann Sterling

Catherine Stewart

Toni Stewart

Jacquelyn Stiles

Patricia Stocker

Cathleen Stollenwerk

Emily Stone

Kara Stone

Ava Sullivan

Daniel Sullivan

Kathryn Sullivan

Meghan Sullivan

Christian Surette

Alana Sutherland

Kaitlyn Svendsen

Melinda Sweeney

Michaela Szymanski

Louis Takesian

Savannah Taylor

Ashley Tejada

Jylian Tereso

Stephanie Thayer

Jessica Tran

Samantha Treff

Katrina Tuck

Marissa Tucker

Laura Tweedy

Miranda Tygert O’Connell

Erin Tyrrell

Katherine Ulcickas

Haley Vailliant

Maggie-Molloy Van Dyne

Taylor Vanaria

Jessica Vangos

Rachel Vigorita

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Carolyn Wallace

John Walsh

Heather Walter

Blake Wasserman

Bryanna Watts

Rylan Wertz

Erin Wesley

Garrett White

Sophia White

Kimberly Whittaker

Amanda Williams

Lily Williams

Mollie Williams

Sarah Williams

Araiyah Willis

Matthew Willis

Ainsley Witherell

Athlyn Wood

Madeline Wood

Olivia Wood

Julianne Wydola

Bradley Zadrozny

Elicia Zecchini

Danni Zhu

Kimberly Zuber

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN COURSE

Julie Ackerson

Lillian Ahl

Griffin Allaire

Bruno Auzec

Renee Babineau

Lauren Baudo

Amber Bean

Anthony Bello

Elizabeth Belmonte

Charlotte Bernhardt

Carly Bettano

Mariah Beutel

Ashley Bill

Joseph Bisson

Kailyn Bowie

Pamela Brady Euler

Pamela Brady Euler

Sarah Breen

Julia Brennan

Riley Brunelle

Halle Burgess

Allison Cabral

Rebecca Cantu

Joseph Cappadona

Toni Caputo

Joe Carreiro

Erin Carroll

Sarah Carroll

Talia Casale

Marissa Chaves

Nicholas Ciciotte

Julia Cohen

Katia Coll-Santana

Matthew Connelly

Victoria Conti

Aidan Cook

Corinna Corriveau

Madison Coughlin

Ciara Cox

Jalie Cuoco

Jillian Darois

Kelsey Davenport

Alec Diradourian

Katelyn Distasio

Courtney Dolan

Leah Doucot

Megan Downing

Kristina Doyle

Emma Driscoll

Bonnie Durante

Tatiana Estrada

Victoria Fazio

Abigail Federici

Patrick Feeney

James Ference

Jessica Ferraro

Zachary Fiore

Ava Firicano

Rebecca Fisher

Jenny Fogle

Jackson Fortune-O’brien

Margaret Franz

Jahaida Gabriel

Melissa Gannon

Abigail Garside

Emma Gedick

Emily Glynn

Emily Gosselin

Kylie Greeley

Lindsey Griffin

Jenna Gross

Meghan Harmon

Alexa Harrington

Sydney Haskin

Lindsey Hays

Kaitlyn Healy

Casey Hegan

Charles Helm

Thomas Hemmendinger

Erin Hill

Jakobi Holiday

Aislin Hynes

Hannah Jeffers

Catherine Johnson

Sophia Kalaitzidis

Matthew Kaplan

Rory Kerr

Annalise Kolenda

Molly Kueter

Michael Lavallie

Erin Leahy

Tyler Leavy

Leann LeBlanc

Isabella LeBrun

Ava Lescinskas

Quinn Lewis

Kendra Link

Gwyneth Littlehale

Gabriel Lopez

Andrew Mac

Molly Macdonald

Sara MacGaffey

Isabella Maffeo

Allison Mallett

Jenna Malone

Natalie Mank

Victoria Mantia

Haylee Marchand

Gabriella Marchese

Fabielys Martinez

# Keely Martyn

# Emma Mastovsky

# Edward McCarthy

# Emily McCormack

# Sophia McGonagle

# Grace McIntyre

# Mikayla Melahn

# Ryan Merchant

# Brieanna Metcalf

# Christina Milinazzo

# Emily Mullen

# Aries Mustoe

# Rebecca Nee

# Christopher Nguyen-Bishop

# Riley Nigohosian

Grace O’Leary

Joshua Oman

Arline Ortiz

Lauren Paradis

Georgia Parker

Bethany Pender

Sam Phelan

Ashley Piazza

Olivia Poillucci

Molly Porter

Alessia Puccio

Ashley Rapoza

Abigail Raymond

Shea Robertson

John Robinson

Kali Rowe

Serena Russo

Emma Ryder

Kelly Sacramone

Paige Salvi

Gabriela Scarpelli

Casey Sheehan

Luke Sheehan

Rachel Sheikh-Abdou

Bridget Slocum

Abigail Sperrazza

Nicole Stagg

Kailyn Stanio

Amaya Staton

Caitlin Ann Sullivan

Erica Surabian

Sara Elizabeth Swanton

Aislin Terenzio

Allison Tolan

Daniel Tolan

Meghan Tully

Julia Vass

Peter Vasta

Sylvia Vega

Jordyn Vella

Sean Walsh

Molly Whelan

Kylie Willwerth

Hanna Wizboski

Ryan Young

Emma Zimon

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

**Francis Kenneally**

Francis “Frank” Kenneally III is president and CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, one of the region’s leading nonprofits serving more than 40,000 individuals annually through programs and services that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA operates facilities in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen, Massachusetts, a day camp in Salem, New Hampshire, and two overnight camps on Bear Island Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith, New Hampshire.

As a lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley, Mr. Kenneally brings a unique perspective and understanding of the communities the Y serves. This understanding has led to several creative and innovative approaches by the Y to address community needs around early education and care for young children, food insecurity, safety around water, educational inequalities and bridging communities.

Mr. Kenneally is a leader in promoting collaboration among state and local governments, educational institutions, healthcare providers and other nonprofits to address issues that impact youth and families in Northeast Massachusetts. He started his career in camping and aquatics and has held several program and executive positions leading up to being named president and CEO in July 2019.

Under his leadership, the Y has focused on reimagining programs and services to create an impact that is guided by the needs and aspirations of the community. He has also increased philanthropy to the Y which has been leveraged for facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades and to provide greater access and assistance to residents of the Merrimack Valley seeking to improve their health and wellness.

In 2017, Mr. Kenneally was presented with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence Humanitarian Award. Additionally, he has received Y-USA’s Emerging Leaders Resource Network Legacy Award for 2020 and the Rotary Club of Andover Citizens Who Care Award in 2023. Mr. Kenneally has a certificate in non-profit business leadership from Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame and completed a LEADS Fellowship in partnership with Harvard Business School in 2021.

He is deeply engaged in the Merrimack Valley community serving on the boards of the Lawrence Partnership, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Andover Service Club, North Andover Scholarship Foundation and Merrimack College School of Nursing and Health Sciences Board of Advisors. He also volunteers on the boards of the Epilepsy Foundation of New England and the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs chairing the Public Policy Committee.

Mr. Kenneally is a graduate of Salem State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in sport, fitness and leisure studies. He also earned a master’s degree from Springfield College in human services organizational leadership. He lives in North Andover, Massachusetts with his wife Amy. They have three adult sons.

# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

**John Petillo | Honorary Doctorate of Public Health**

Dr. Petillo was named president of Sacred Heart University in March 2011. Before that, he served as interim president beginning in October 2010 and dean of the University’s Jack Welch College of Business & Technology since March 2009. Under his leadership, Sacred Heart has experienced unprecedented growth both academically and physically.

# During his tenure, the university has added or begun construction on approximately 10 new buildings, not including extensive renovations at the West Campus site. In addition, the university has added the Colleges of Education & Human Development and Nursing and the School of Computer Science & Engineering as well as many new programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university has also greatly expanded international educational opportunities for students under Dr. Petillo.

# He holds a doctorate in counseling and personnel services from Fordham University, master’s degrees from the Darlington School of Theology and Rutgers University, and a bachelor’s from Seton Hall University.

# 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

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Dennis J. Leonard ’77

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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.