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Letter to the Merrimack College Community

Welcome to the start of the 2017-2018 academic year. This is an exciting time to be at Merrimack, whether you're a first-year student or a long-tenured member of our faculty.

We have made transformative changes to the physical campus this year: the renovations to O'Reilly and Cushing Halls, McQuade Library, the Warrior's Den and Sparky's, expanded parking, the new Unity House — and of course, Crowe Hall, taking pride of place on North Campus, new home to the Girard School of Business.

And during Homecoming, we will all mark the official opening of the new athletic complex on Cullen Avenue.

Of course, Merrimack is not just about the spaces, it's about what happens inside. We welcome 28 new full-time faculty members this year — all experts in their fields, eager to guide students on your intellectual journey. We have launched our new School of Health Sciences in O'Reilly Hall, and we have more than 4,100 undergraduate, graduate and part-time students enrolled this fall — a record enrollment number and the second-largest freshman class in our history.

We have made significant changes to campus dining, including the ready-made burgers, smoothies and subs in the Warrior's Den and more healthful options in Sparky's and Mindful Mack, where you can now sit and eat salads and stir-fry in the Athletics Complex lobby.

You will notice we have changed the parking plan this year, for students, faculty and staff. We have given everyone until Sept. 15 to obtain permits or, if not eligible, remove their vehicles from campus. We believe the new system is not only fair but gives everyone clear directions on where they can find parking every day.

All in all, Merrimack continues its historic climb — a trajectory celebrated in July by *The Boston Globe*, which found us succeeding in a highly competitive higher education marketplace. We hope to hear good news

about our national rankings on a number of levels in the very near future, and we'll share that with everyone as well.

I'm sure I will see you at athletic, cultural and intellectual events and at Mack Gives Back Day in November. And we will all be celebrating our successes on Sept. 15 at the traditional Merrimack College Block Party, with music, games, food and fireworks.

I will be addressing the Faculty Senate on Sept. 19 and hope for a vigorous discussion of the issues facing the college. And I hope to hear from students at our traditional "Pizza with the President" on Oct. 17. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions in the meantime, you can email me directly at Talktothepresident@merrimack.edu.

Finally, I'd like to share some notes on recent events:

- We have reached out to our students in Texas and Florida, offering assistance as well as prayers as they deal with savage forces of nature. We urge everyone to keep residents of those states in their thoughts, and find appropriate ways to contribute to the long rebuilding efforts.

- Recent announcements from the federal government on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and campus sexual-assault guidelines, have left us pondering how best to honor our faith and traditions and hold to our commitment to all who belong to our community. I am the current president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts, and we are working with the office of the Massachusetts attorney general to create one strong voice of higher education that will join the national discussion as the federal government considers the future of DACA and sexual-assault guidelines. In the meantime, every Merrimack student should feel secure, welcomed and supported here, with no exceptions and no debate.

Again, I welcome you — or welcome you back — to Merrimack. This will be another outstanding year, and I wish you every success.

God bless,
Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

Campus Comes to Life as Students Arrive for Fall

An infusion of energy shot through the Merrimack College community when about 875 freshmen arrived on campus Friday Sept. 1, 2017, followed by the upper classmen who trickled in over the weekend and then arrived en masse Monday.

Smaido Romulus '19, a civil engineering student from Waltham, Massachusetts, said he's glad to be back on campus with a renewed dedication to his studies surrounded with friends and classmates. He noticed the renovations and new construction around campus.

"It's way better," Romulus said.

Move-in day went smoothly, said Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Allison Gill.



A first-year student brings the comforts of home to her dorm room during this year's move-in.

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Latest “Agenda for Distinction” Milestone Now Open

Crowe Hall is now open for business — literally. What began as a rendering on paper, is now a 50,000 square-foot, three-story building known as Crowe Hall — home to the Girard School of Business and the centerpiece of the North Campus Pavilion.

After months of observing Crowe Hall being constructed brick-by-brick in rain or shine, students, faculty and staff are finally able to make full use of the newest stand-alone academic building on campus since the 1990s when Mendel Hall was completed.

Named for the college’s most generous donor, trustee Chairman Michael Crowe ’92, H ’17 and his wife Kerridan P ’17, Crowe Hall features colorful hallways, contemporary furnishings, and state-of-the-art equipment.

- The first-floor houses the Lucey Center for Business Advising, the dean’s suite and associated offices, Mucci Capital Markets Lab, Financial Capability Center, and two 50-seat classrooms.
- On the second floor, The Executive Room can be found — a large event space, in addition to eight 50-seat classrooms and a meeting room.
- Located on the third floor is the Bouchard Center for Management Consulting and Applied Student



Learning, business faculty offices, a meeting room and four 50-seat classrooms.

The building was blessed by Fr. Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., vice president, mission and ministry before the new faculty dinner on August 30, which was the very first event to take place in the new Executive Room.

“The opening of Crowe Hall is a monumental occasion in Merrimack’s history,” said President Christopher Hopey. “This building represents our campus’ ongoing transformation, our commitment to broadening educational opportunities

for our students, and also the generosity of our alumni — namely Michael Crowe and his wife Kerridan — who truly epitomize the heart and soul of Merrimack.”

Crowe Hall is considered the anchor in the continued development of North Campus. Between 2017 and 2019, two additional administrative/academic buildings are planned for either side of Crowe. The North Campus complex also includes North Residential Village, two modern residence halls that are home to the honors living-learning community and the Sanctuary coffeehouse. Both halls opened in fall 2015.

College Announces New Parental Leave Policy

Merrimack’s executive leadership takes pride in recognizing the vast contribution employees make to this thriving campus community, all while balancing the commitments of family and work.

In an effort to provide further employee support, Merrimack is proud to offer full-time employees a paid leave option for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child. Eligible full-time employees will now receive twelve weeks of leave at full base salary.

“Through this new policy, we hope to better accommodate the modern reality of working full-time while raising a family — a common dynamic that can prove challenging,” said Christopher Hopey,

president of Merrimack. “We are very excited to be able to offer this benefit, and hope it makes a positive impact in the lives of our dedicated employees.”

The new maternity and paternity policy at-a-glance:

- Full-time employees who work a minimum of 35 hours per week during an academic or fiscal year are eligible for the Merrimack College Parental Leave Policy, following ninety days of employment.
- Upon the birth of a child, a full-time employee is entitled to a paid leave up to twelve consecutive weeks within the twelve-month period following the birth of a child.

- Full-time employees will also be granted up to twelve consecutive weeks of paid leave to care for an adopted child or an official placement of a child into their foster care within the twelve-month period following the adoption or placement of the child in the employee’s home.

The Merrimack College Parental Leave Policy, including information such as spousal exception, requesting paid leave, use of sick and vacation time, can be found in its entirety under the Human Resources page in MyMack. For further questions regarding this policy, contact the Human Resources Department at x5157.

Faculty Ranks Continue to Strengthen

Merrimack welcomes 28 new faculty members to campus this fall from across disciplines in order to accommodate the steady growth in academic offerings. To honor the new faculty, a special dinner was held in The Executive Room of the newest academic building Crowe Hall — the new home to the Girard School of Business.

School of Science and Engineering

Brandi L. Baldock, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Joseph Chiarelli, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Anthony A. DiCarlo, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Fotios Kokkotos, Ph.D.

Professor of Practice, Data Science and Business Analytics

Robert Marceau, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Computer Science

William McDowell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Biology

Michael Piatelli, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Biology

Ashrafur Rahman, M.S.

Lecturer, Civil Engineering

School of Liberal Arts

Jane Caputi, Ph.D.

Visiting Professor and Scholar, Interdisciplinary Institute

John Lovett, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Political Science

Kevin McGravey, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Political Science



Merrimack President Christopher E. Hopey gets acquainted with new faculty members during a dinner in the new Crowe Hall.

Ryan Patrick McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Religious and Theological Studies

Aleksandra Plocha, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Christy Pottroff, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, English

Jessica Rich, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Communication and Media

Simona Sharoni, Ph.D.

Professor, Women's and Gender Studies

Dan Vlahos, M.F.A.

Assistant Professor, Visual and Performing Arts

Gwyne White, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Psychology

Girard School of Business

Benjamin Larkin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Sport Management

Raymond Lavoie, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Marketing

Natalie Mitchell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Marketing

Omer Unsal, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Finance

School of Education and Social Policy

Stephanie Garrone-Shufan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Education and Community Studies

Amelia Mallona, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Education and Community Studies

Rena Stroud, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Education and Community Studies

Kathy Welby, M.Ed.

Professor of Practice, Education and Community Studies

School of Health Sciences

Andrew Cannon, M.S.

Lecturer, Health Sciences

Jessica Peacock, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Health Science



New faculty members get some pointers from an existing faculty member during a dinner reception welcoming new faculty members to campus.

College Investments Position Institution for Further Success

The start of an academic year is always a special time on Merrimack's campus. The welcoming of new students and faculty, new relationships and new academic programs are just a few of the reasons the beginning of the year can be so exciting.

Additionally, the beginning of an academic year provides opportunity to reflect on all that Merrimack has achieved over the past eight years, as well as to look forward to the engagement of opportunities and challenges that may lie ahead. Through investments in student housing, dining services, athletic facilities and teams, academic programs and facilities, Merrimack is poised, more than ever, to compete with the best comprehensive master's colleges in the region and the country. As the college has worked steadily on these investments — as outlined in the Agenda for Distinction — no other summer has been as busy or transformative as the one that is currently coming to a close.

The college has been busy readying for our new and returning students — making improvements as we pursue our vision to become a more integrated living and learning campus community. Academic spaces have been updated, Crowe Hall is officially open, and Faculty are moving into new offices around campus — all which will provide the space and atmosphere for our faculty and students to do their best work.

Below you will read about all of the changes that have taken place over the summer and we look forward to this academic year where more investments

will be made in order to position the college for continued success.

Athletic District

Perhaps the biggest change on campus this fall is the construction of the new multisport stadium with artificial turf, surrounded by a 400-meter, eight-lane outdoor track and bleacher seating for 2,500 spectators. The new stadium will boast a large outdoor event plaza that can accommodate food trucks, a large event tent, outdoor seating and concession stands. Additionally, Martone-Mejail Field received new turf and has been expanded to accommodate the softball team. *The Athletic District is opening in October.*

Parking

The college is happy to report that it is adding over 200 parking spaces for Faculty and Staff, and is designating specific lots, close to academic and administrative buildings. In addition, as part of the effort to make parking on campus more efficient and readily available for employees, the college is moving to hanging tags (placards) to denote staff approved parking. All Faculty and Staff who filled out the Vehicle Registration Form should have received their placards this week as they were delivered by IT. If you have not received your placard, you may pick it up in the Bursar's Office beginning Monday, September 11th. All faculty and staff can read the parking policies and fill out the required vehicle registration form through MyMack Quicklinks.

Dining

From new food stations to renovated facilities, Merrimack has made significant improvements to its dining services operation. The college has embarked on a multiyear renovation of Sparky's that will allow for expanded food options and an enhanced environment.

This summer's improvements include:

- The Warrior's Den will now offer whole-food smoothies, fresh-made smashed burgers, subs, salads and pizza, and more.
- Sparky's menus have also been updated with vegan options and new food stations with flavorful entrees.
- New bistro seating in the DiCrocce Lobby at the MAC has been added where made-to-order stir fry is back.
- Over Christmas break, a new Mongolian grill will be added to Sparky's.

Campus Buildings and Refreshes

By continually investing in Merrimack's academic programs and facilities, we ensure the best environment for our students and faculty to do their best work. Therefore, the college has hired a new facilities management company, Zampell Inc., to improve maintenance operations across campus as well as the cleaning of all resident and academic buildings.

The resident side of campus received a lot of attention over the summer based on student feedback the college received last spring. Common areas of Monican, O'Brien and Ash halls have been upgraded with new pool and ping-pong tables, new flooring, lights and paint, more (and larger) TVs and new furniture. Graduate students now have a dedicated lounge on the third floor of Cushing.

Half the townhouses have been renovated with new doors and living areas, and the other half will be completed next summer. Finally, working with the Student Government Association, the student housing selection process will be revised, ensuring that every student who wants housing will find it.

Tuition Remission form reminder

Human Resources would like to remind employees who are interested in utilizing the benefit — for themselves or qualified dependents — that a Tuition Remission form must be completed for every semester/term in which they would like to receive the benefit. Tuition Remission benefits will not be applied to student accounts without a completed form having been submitted to HR. Forms should be completed at the time of course registration and should be signed by an immediate manager for either employee or employee's dependent. The Tuition Remission form can be found on the HR page on MyMack under "Tuition".

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College Investments

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New Spaces

With opening new spaces on campus comes moving departments and schools. Take note of the following spaces that have been renovated, as well as new locations for departments around campus.

- The School of Health Sciences with Dr. Kyle McInnis serving as the founding dean, has a new home in renovated O'Reilly Hall. The project includes new anatomy and physiology, exercise science and sports medicine labs, new classrooms, expanded faculty offices and student spaces.
- Crowe Hall, which houses the Girard School of Business, is now open and features 14 new classrooms, celebration spaces, business faculty offices and new facilities for the Mucci Capital Markets Lab, the Lucey Center for Business Advising, and the Financial Capability Center.
- The Department of Communication and Media is now on the second floor of Cushing Hall, with a new television studio, photo studio, radio station, computer lab, student lounge and media lab.
- The Department of Visual and Performing Arts is now co-located close to the Writers House in the MAC, featuring a new music and pep band practice facility, arts studio and digital design studio, and new faculty offices.
- The Department of Psychology has a renovated 8,000-square-foot teaching and research facility on the first floor of O'Reilly Hall. The space includes testing labs, a sleep research facility, classrooms, faculty offices, space for graduate programs and a lounge.
- The third floor of the McQuade Library has been renovated for the Academic Success Center, newly expanded tutoring and math center space, as well as the Writing Center. New study spaces have also been added with tables, chairs, lighting and charging stations, open 24 hours a day. Finally, the library café's menu has been improved with extended hours and breakfast sandwiches that are available all day.

Athletics Unveils New Mascot



Pictured here, the college's new mascot poses with the police department's Sgt. Gregory Pepper.

The Athletic Department was busy this summer working on off-field projects, including the creation of a new mascot, the launch of a new website and plans for new inductees to its Hall of Fame.

The department has announced plans to induct its first Hall of Fame class since 2004, honoring those who have distinguished themselves and the college either through their involvement or support. This year's class will be revealed during a ceremony with current members of the Hall of Fame and their families on Oct. 12, which will lead into Homecoming Weekend Oct. 13-15.

"This is one of our many initiatives to perpetuate the memory of those individuals who have brought distinction, honor and pride to Merrimack College," said President Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.

In a move to instill pride and fun at both athletic and community events, the college walked out its new mascot for freshmen orientation Sept. 1, 2017. A naming competition run by students will be taking place this fall.

Students designed the initial renderings for the mascot with an eye toward catching a Braveheart look, referencing the popular

1995 Mel Gibson movie by the same name, said Brad Davis, associate athletic director.

"As a mascot you want to have someone who's the embodiment of the school to build spirit among the student body and youth and family," Davis said. "The community is a big part of the games themselves."

The mascot will be at sporting events on campus and in the surrounding community for special events.

Fans who can't get to the games to see the mascot or their favorite team in person will be able to live-stream on the Athletic Department's new website.

The Athletic Department teamed with SIDEARM Sports to build the new www.merrimackathletics.com as a user-friendly site with a modern look that can be used across various platforms with a uniform look. Along with a sleek design, improved navigation structure and a cleaner overall layout, the new online home of Merrimack College Athletics creates quick and easy access to essential information such as scores, schedules, videos, ticket information and more.

The nearly 100 home athletic webcasts live streamed on Merrimack Sports Network will be available on the webpage.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcomes

New director of employer relations **Brian Berkeley** will partner with O'Brien Center leadership to launch a strategy to hire students for internship, co-op and full-time career opportunities.

As the new director of special events in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, **Leila Eid** will develop, strategize, plan and execute on and off campus special events.

Meghan Wynne, the new editorial manager for web services within the Office of Communications, will focus on content updates throughout the Merrimack website and help facilitate the college's web redesign project.

Admission has hired **Paula Mensch**, the new regional director for mid-Atlantic recruitment efforts, and the new regional assistant director of admission **Tara Kalivas**, both of whom will focus on student recruitment in regions within New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. **Dauri Torres**, the new assistant director of admission, will be an integral part of the team responsible for recruiting and enrolling new undergraduate students to Merrimack.

Jaimen Romano, the new assistant director of athletic communications, assists with the publicity of Merrimack's sports while serving as the primary media relations contact for men's and women's soccer, Division I women's ice hockey, softball, men's and women's track & field, and women's swimming.

Farewells

Kerry Johnson, vice provost, has accepted the position of associate vice provost for undergraduate education at California State University at Long Beach.

Diane Rigos, associate professor/chair, recently accepted the position of executive director of the Tata Center for Technology and Design at MIT.


David Hautanen, vice president of enrollment management and retention, has taken on the role of vice president for enrollment management at St. Mary's in Maryland.

Betsy Kennedy, associate athletic director, took on the position of director of athletics for Pingree School.

Zoe Cohen, associate vice president of marketing, recently left the college to pursue education opportunities as well as spend more time with her family.


Elizabeth Sarkodie-Mensah, librarian, departed Merrimack to become Ghana's permanent representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

Mark Collins, vice president of administration and campus services, recently left the college to assist Lesley College with administrative needs.

 MERRIMACK COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER SERIES

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BEN NEMTIN

Creator and Executive Producer of MTV's hit series *The Buried Life* and #1 New York Times Best Selling Author of *What Do You Want To Do Before You Die?* Join Ben Nemtin for his poignant and inspirational keynote 'How to Cross Anything Off Your Bucket List'.

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Rogers Center for the Arts | 6:00 p.m.

For more information and to reserve your seat, please visit www.merrimack.edu/speakerseries

Liberal Arts Launches Interdisciplinary Institute

The School of Liberal Arts is launching a new Interdisciplinary Institute with a focus on bias, perfectly timed to study the current political and cultural climate in the United States.

The institute is designed to foster collaboration between students and faculty across traditional academic departments to solve problems and address major public questions. It will combine the skills and perspectives of history, philosophy, visual and performing arts, psychology, sociology, economics, women's and gender studies, biology and other disciplines.

"The Interdisciplinary Institute embraces the potential for new knowledge, new ways of understanding and new insights on complex questions that can come from integrating the theoretical and methodological approaches of more than one field of study," said Allan T. Weatherwax, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president. "By creating opportunities for students

to engage with these complex issues, the institute also reaffirms Merrimack's mission to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives."

The institute's inaugural theme is "The Complex Nature of Bias: Is It Inevitable?"

"Given recent events in our country, our focus on bias seems particularly relevant and powerfully important," said Monica Cowart, Ph.D., vice provost and founding director of the institute. "This creation of the institute further underscores the college's historical commitment to fostering social justice and to embracing diversity. Merrimack is taking a leadership role in these areas at a time when this leadership is greatly needed."

"By becoming involved with the institute, faculty and students will have opportunities to become more effective problem solvers," said Sean Condon, interim dean of the School of Liberal Arts. "It will enable them to engage with others who have

different perspectives and approaches, and in turn, both students and faculty will be motivated to take collaborative approaches to formulate and address complex and crucial questions."

The institute's first visiting scholar, Janet Caputi, Ph.D., is a professor at Florida Atlantic University who holds joint appointments in the women, gender and sexuality studies department and the communication and multimedia department. At Merrimack, she will teach courses related to the theme, collaborate with students on research projects and hold public events addressing major questions around bias. Merrimack faculty, aided by grants from the institute, have designed courses and events to complement the theme.

The institute will also offer experiential education opportunities in the community with classroom learning and robust on-campus programming including symposia and workshops.

Merrimack Teaming with Database Provider to Find Funding for Research Projects

Funding capital is the lifeblood of nearly all research but there's always the question of where to find the money to support the work. To help solve the problem, Merrimack College has purchased a license agreement with Pivot, which is a comprehensive database of research funding opportunities around the world.

Faculty members can go to the website at <https://pivot.cos.com/register> looking for individualized funding opportunities and requests-for-proposals. Users can then get overviews of grants and learn more about the sponsors.

"As we're building our sponsored portfolio, the college community is finding opportunities for external funding," said Director of Sponsored Programs Melissa Siegel.

Siegel develops funding proposals for federal and state sponsors, working in partnership with Kathy Redmond, the director of corporate and foundation development who develops funding proposals for foundations. The database helps them work together and strengthens their efforts, Siegel said.

"It's a tool but it changes the game, too, because it makes it easier for faculty to find funding," Siegel said.

Pivot also connects researchers, whether on campus or around the world, who are doing similar work so they can form partnerships and alliances.

Faculty members can ask for help from the Corporate and Foundation Development and the Office for Sponsored Programs.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

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Send submissions and story ideas to record@merrimack.edu.

Campus Comes to Life

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"It was wonderful to see so many students and families in our tours around campus and nice to hear all of the positive comments about the updates to the residence halls," Gill said. "It was a great day."

Along with the freshman on campus, the new faces include about 94 transfer students, said Associate Vice President and Dean of Admission Darren Conine.

"We are excited to welcome the second-largest freshman class in the history of Merrimack and one of the largest transfer classes," Conine said.

Merrimack students this year represent 34 states and 32 countries, including freshman from 25 states and seven countries.

Academic interests are pretty evenly split among freshmen. About 13 percent are education and social policy majors; 10 percent engineering; 15 percent health sciences; 15 percent liberal arts; 11 percent spread over other sciences; 8 percent undeclared; and 28 percent business majors, Conine said.

The new students told the Admission Department they are interested in getting involved in community service, internships and co-ops, intramural sports, music, dance and study abroad, said Associate Vice President of Program Development and Retention Tricia Pineda.

Katie Clifford '19, of Methuen, Massachusetts is majoring in business management and marketing. After a summer working at Kohl's, she arrived Monday ready to see friends and the new Crowe Hall where the Girard School of Business is housed.

"I'm excited," she said. "The new business building is supposed to be nice and we got a good apartment in the South House 5."

"It's a great day to be at Merrimack College," said Associate Director of Residence Life Office David Golden. "We love when the students are back."

Greg Gobiell '20, a business entrepreneurship major from Woburn, Massachusetts was teaching Harry McClellan '20, a finance major from Hollis, New Hampshire, how to skateboard. After working hard all summer at their summer jobs they are happy to be back at Merrimack.

"Just to see everybody," McClellan said. "Continue to learn and be around here."



A Merrimack Orientation Leader helps unload cars and carry items into first year student rooms.

Boston Globe Story Tuesday, July 18

The notable success and extraordinary expansion of Merrimack's facilities, academic offerings and overall stature continues to gain attention beyond campus. The college was prominently featured on the front page of The Boston Globe on Tuesday, July 18 in an article titled "Small private schools are struggling, but Merrimack has found its footing."

The article highlights Merrimack's

continued ability to "recalibrate" its focus to stay relevant and successful in an ever-changing higher education market, including:

- Tailoring financial aid to attract students who prefer small colleges;
- Focusing more clearly on job prospects in the current economy;

- Establishing solid partnerships with businesses such as Raytheon and New Balance to provide internships for students.

President Christopher Hopey was quoted in the article as saying "I'm not as pessimistic as most people. The key is to look different than others."

Office:
Merrimack College