The ongoing expansion at the Volpe Athletic Complex has drawn a lot of attention across campus. The expansion will be 83,000 square feet added to the original building. There will be more locker rooms for athletes, a new weight room and mini turf indoor field. A second rink will be added for youth hockey and other uses. There will be a new lobby, concession facilities, additional luxury boxes and a Merrimack pro shop. The well-anticipated addition has been on every athletes’ minds since the idea was first floated.

“I am excited for the new beginning,” said Interim Athletic Director Dean O’Keefe. “I think this will be better for athletes, students and for sports medicine majors in general. The bookstore would be moved to Volpe once it is finished. It will make a nice sports facility even nicer.”

“This will allow us to expand our activity to grow within the sports medicine and athletic training majors,” said Mary Noonan, dean of science and engineering.

The state of the art facility will allow our facility to expand their research, and our students to expand on their new opportunities.

Stephan Lockwood ’14
Staff Writer

Marriott Hotel: Students Join the Inn Crowd in Andover

Thomas Lanzoni ’15
Staff Writer

Ten students, including three graduate students, have realized that the Marriott Hotel, located in Andover at 10 Campanelli Drive, is where they will be spending their year.

The number has dwindled since the beginning of the school year, as Merrimack made room for several additional students to live on campus.

There are several other off-campus housing options, including Royal Crest.

The students still residing at the Marriott based their decision to stay there based on some of the accommodations provided by the hotel, which include a full kitchen and living room with a flat-screen TV in each unit.

The hotel also provides them with cleaning services twice a week and a continental breakfast daily.

A Merrimack staff member who lives at the hotel as well serves as both a resource and support to the students living there, just as a resident director/resident advisor would on campus.

Amanda Unis, residence life’s off-campus housing coordinator, said living off campus allows students to be self-sufficient and have more freedom.

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Although some students have enjoyed off-campus housing, others still want to ensure they will be granted campus housing for their future endeavors at Merrimack.

By Dana Hildner ’13
Staff Writer

Within the first weeks of the school year, fire alarms were pulled three times in the St. Thomas and St. Ann apartments. The false alarms went off in the early hours of Sept. 16, irritating the residents.

Police quickly arrested three non-students in the crime spree (see Police Log).

“The pulling of the fire alarm was inconvenient and annoying for everyone who was affected. The people who pulled the alarm may have thought they were having fun, but at 4 a.m., it was too much. The last thing I wanted to do was stand out in the cold for 20 minutes in the middle of the night while the police were figuring out what happened,” said senior and D Tower resident Corey Lunney.

If students were found responsible for false alarms they would face serious consequences from the college as well as criminal penalties, said Assistant Dean of Students Alison Gill.

“If students were found responsible for false alarms they would face serious consequences from the college as well as criminal penalties, said Assistant Dean of Students Alison Gill.

“The student handbook does indicate a mandatory minimum sanction of loss of housing for any student found responsible for intentionally or recklessly causing a fire alarm,” said Gill.

With the weekly occurrence of the fire alarm going off students are not only aggravated, but becoming jaded.

“It’s annoying because the last thing I want to do at 3 in the morning is go outside in the cold. It makes the real alarms less effective,” said Marissa Keach, a senior and a resident of apartment L.

Alarming End to Recent Nights
Questions on the Quad

By Agata Adamczuk

Do You Feel Safe on Campus?

Laura Perez ’16
I do. However, I think it is frightening that the doors can be opened by pushing hard enough.

Tim Towler ’16
I feel very safe, the campus seems warm and welcoming.

Courtney Hughes ’15
Yes, because I have a lot of great friends looking out for me.

Police Log

Sept. 15 Dispersal Desk worker at the library reported four kids wearing white were bouncing a basketball off the windows. When advised to stop, they fled to the other side of the building facing Rte. 114. Sargeant dispatched. Unit reports speaking with the desk worker and checking the area. No findings. Unit clear.

Sept. 16 Res Life Issue/Assist RA in O’Brien notified Police Services that an unregistered guest was harassing girls on campus. Suspect was reportedly wearing a white polo shirt and jeans and was last seen in the apartments. The RA stated that the individual could be a visitor of a registered guest. Units were notified. Patrol reports searched the area: no individual matching the description was located.

Sept. 16 Fire Alarm - Malicious (3:23) St. Thomas rang in on 5911. Units were notified. Andover notified. (3:29) Unit confirms the alarm is coming from M tower second floor pull station: malicious.

(3:35) St. Thomas/ St. Ann. Units notified. Unit confirms that alarms are coming from pull stations on D tower 1st floor and J tower 3rd floor. Both appear to be malicious pulls. (3:58) Maintenance contacted and notified. (4:29) Sgt. reports that all alarms have been silenced and reset. There is damage to the M tower pull station. All units and Andover clear.

Sept. 20 Medical Call Student reported that her friend, a student, had injured his toe in the MPR. Officers were dispatched.

Sept. 21 Damage Received a call from the RA on duty stating that he and another RA had heard someone in one of the bathrooms smashing things and subsequently observed a male wearing a navy blue sweatshirt and khaki shorts running towards the dorm Volpe. Officers were dispatched. Unit found no one. RAs were spoken with. One of the lights in the bathroom was damaged.

Sept. 23 Medical Call RAs from Ash Hall called for an assessment on student who believed something may have been placed into her drink that evening. Officers are dispatched and were on scene.

Mack Tweets

Follow The Beacon on Twitter: @MCBeacon

@JenGrande According to popular survey people fear public speaking more than they do death. On that note, giving a solo presentation to my class.

@LraeBeach my “turkey” sandwich from grab n go lunch consists of bread, one piece of cheese and lettuce. #whereyousparryas

#smoovichi Merrimack loves doing work around campus once all the students are here

@MarissaGrant1 Why is everyone SO annoying at the library!!

@blyr19 Am I the only one who thinks the NFL replacement refs are doing a phenomenal job?!?

@swAgst3rr After consuming alcohol for the past 5 days straight not being drunk feels weird Wednesdaydayyet

@SkyDubya Girls still wear the full juicy track suit!
Troubled Start at Deegan West

By Andrew Hurd ’13  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Sept. 9, a Merrimack student was arrested on multiple charges after allegedly acting recklessly at a freshman dorm.

The incident, the first of two that took place at Deegan West, raised questions concerning the security and safety of students.

The student charged, Charles McAndrew, was allegedly under the influence of drugs and acting aggressively and inappropriately toward female students and police officers. He was arrested on charges of assaulting an officer, indecent exposure, destruction of property, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

McAndrew claimed to have taken “way too much acid” and was sent home to Connecticut, where he was ordered to check into a drug rehab center, according to Merrimack police.

In addition to that, another incident took place involving two non-Merrimack students at Ash Centre. Two male non-students talked their way into a female student’s dorm room: when she requested a male Merrimack student to ask them to leave, the intruders became physical, police said.

Security has become a concern for some students based on the incidents. Several freshmen and sophomores said they have concerns, though not to such an extent that it is keeping them from their day-to-day lives.

One freshman girl said she “did not like the community bathrooms” and that “front desk attendants would help with situations like this.”

A male freshman said, however, that he was “not worried” and that it “probably won’t happen again.”

Courtney See, a sophomore, suggested that the huge freshman class could be accountable for these incidents.

There are so many students that it is hard to tell who may or may not be a student at Merrimack, he said.

Due to the fact the front desk attendants are gone, now anyone can get into dorms, said See, adding that she feels safe for the most part but she will definitely want to “stay alert.”

She also agreed that community bathrooms could be an issue moving forward.

Police have offered several safety tips for students.

• First, all external residence doors are equipped with swipe cards which must be used for entry to the building.

• Second, never allow people you don’t know to “piggyback” behind you into the building.

• Additionally, as a reminder, do not leave your doors or windows to your room unlocked, even if away for a short time.

Getting the Classes You Want

Brett Julian  
Staff Writer

Roughly 700 freshmen are currently enrolled at Merrimack College, about 200 more than last fall’s freshman class. The real questions here are: how in the world is this small school finding a way to accommodate this unique and certainly challenging reality in the midst of dynamic changes at 315 Turnpike St., and are there enough classes for this year’s freshmen class?

To best facilitate this transition, the college hired 11 full time professors and a suitable number of adjunct professors who have received at the bare minimum, masters degrees and have well recognized industry applicable background in their respective fields of teaching. Because of these changes there are more than sufficient classes for this year’s freshmen class.

Tactician Pat Florence and Jill Trip have both reported positive feedback thus far on the subject of registering for classes. Jill stated, “My schedule worked great, just the way I wanted it!” Pat Florence a freshman student-athlete was very pleased with registration stating, “All my classes were set up the way I wanted for me. My advisor walked me through them and I was good to go.”

Thus far, Elaine Grelle, Head of the Registrar’s office, has reported a smooth maneuver in helping freshmen manage their schedules and transition into college life. Grelle stated that, “From orientation onward, the staff at Merrimack has been extremely upfront with incoming freshmen about this challenge of increasing enrollment. Although it has been a challenge thus far to keep classroom caps at 19 students per class, the Dean’s have been involved and sensitive to students who must be accommodated for.” Why is the cap attempting to be set at 19? The answer to that is, in order for the school to properly market itself and to score well on the U.S. & World Report, they will open more classes and hire more full time or adjunct professors to sustain Merrimack’s close-knit feel, which they hope to make better than comparable schools.

Ultimately Merrimack hopes to attract itself to the consumers, who are the parents and potential students. In order to do so, they must use analytical and keen marketing tactics to highlight its benefits. These tactics are the ones that benefit the school’s image when outsiders begin to do their research.

The other challenge is coping with students who do not register on time and do not get into their desired class times. Vice Provost Patricia Sendall urges students to “register on time so that the registrar can be progressive and coordinate the best scenarios for students.

It’s stubborn on ones behalf to not acknowledge their registration time, it is there for a reason.”

Stress Over Parking

Alexandra Maas ’14  
Staff Writer

Construction on the new residence hall and Volpe Athletic Complex has brought an abundance of workers, tools and backhoes onto campus.

Where do you put these extra people and vehicles? In the parking lots, of course.

This poses a problem for faculty and students looking to park their cars. The Volpe lot is now used as a staging area for construction necessities and workers’ parking.

Half the lot is opened at 5:30 p.m., and is used by night students and hockey game spectators.

On Monday the Deegan West parking lot will also be closed and used as construction housing.

This is a temporary issue; both lots will be restored to full use when the buildings are completed.

To remedy the parking issue at hand, the school created more spots around Sullivan Hall and the Collegiate Church. These spots will remain after the construction ends, according to the president’s office.

“When we have parking spots we don’t get rid of them,” said Jeff Doggett, chief of staff for President Christopher E. Hopey.

See PARKING Continued on Page 4
New Chief for Merrimack Police

Kristin Anderson ‘14  
Staff Writer

On July 1, the Merrimack College Police Services swore in a new chief of police, Michael DelGreco. He has almost 15 years of experience in law enforcement with both the Merrimack College and Hampton, N.H. police departments. Chief DelGreco has also held the ranks of detective lieutenant and deputy chief at Merrimack and now has the honor of becoming the first chief of police in the department to be promoted from within the ranks.

As chief, DelGreco seeks to focus on “quality of life” issues here on campus. These issues include the need to accommodate parking for everyone to installing additional cameras around campus for safety and security.

With these efforts to improve our quality of life on campus, Chief DelGreco encourages the community to partner with his department by reporting incidents and giving recommendations to the department.

With a policing philosophy that has a stronger focus on education rather than solely on enforcement, Chief DelGreco confidently leads the Merrimack community forward into the future.

Amenities Planned for New Volpe Center

VOLPE  
Continued from page 1

experiential learning and clinical work,” said Noonan. She also noted that the modern center would have the latest human performance and training equipment similar to U.S. Olympics training centers.

“It’s a good idea, I think it will help the school expand, and give more reason for the student athletes to want to be here,” said senior running back Jimone Hill.

A lot of student-athletes agreed that Merrimack has been lacking Division II-level athletic facilities.

Changes Affecting Parking

PARKING  
Continued from Page 3

The spots are crammed and described as “dangerous and confusing” by students like sophomore Meghan Brophy. No accidents have been reported thus far.

Commuters were given designated parking in this area but some have complained that those spots are not always available to them.

The influx in the student population has allegedly added to the problem. Juniors and seniors are expected to have already purchased their parking passes. There are now 150 spots left for sophomores. If fewer than 150 students sign up for these spots they will each get a pass; however, if the number exceeds 150, the spots will be put into a lottery.

Service to Break Up Winter Blues

Jillian Toce ‘13  
Staff Writer

Have you thought about what you will do with your five weeks off of school for winter break?

Serving others is a wonderful way to give back while you have some time away from campus, classes, and activities.

Senior Will McIntyre describes Alternative Winter Break as “an eye opening experience that allows students to become open to all social issues while enabling Merrimack students to create their own sense of community within the group.”

This school year there will be two service trips. The first is the week of Jan. 5-12. Will McIntyre and fellow senior Sara Duplisea will be leading a trip to Philadelphia, Penn., where they will stay at the St. Francis Inn.

Senior Chris Provost and sophomore Amanda Ryan will be leading another group to serve in Washington, D.C., at the Pilgrimage.

The deadline to apply to attend either of the service trips is Oct. 12.

If you have any questions, or want to apply, you can pick up applications in the Campus Ministry Office, check out the group’s table on Main Street. More information is available by emailing Brian Suehs-Vassel at suehsvasselb@merrimack.edu.
The Volpe Athletic Center expansion, recent headlines, athletic news, and the “pic of the day” are just a few of the new features on the new Merrimack.edu website.

Merrimack College first went online in the year 2000. Since then, there have been nine website makeovers, with the latest one being released just last month (Aug. 30). With the help of White Whale Web Services, Merrimack has released the most innovative home page it has had in 12 years. White Whale said the new site will serve the purposes of the school for at least the next five years, or maybe even longer.

Due to the last release of the Merrimack.edu home page being so long ago, it had become a bit stagnant and outdated, it could have done a better job representing the vibrant community here at Merrimack to prospective students. This triggered the creation of the Merrimack Website Redesign Committee and a new committee as well as Stacie Bowman who is employed as a webmaster at the school, Michael Walton who graduated with his computer science degree in 2012, and the staff at White Whale, were able to complete the makeover project on a very short timeline.

The project as a whole wasn’t a simple one. It consisted of two phases that took about a year and a half to complete. The first phase that click you on a link on Merrimack.edu, it take you to what is technically considered to be a parent site. This redesign project needed to not only change the Merrimack.edu home page, but also the thousands of other sites that branch off it. The first phase of the website redesign began when Merrimack originally partnered with White Whale Web Services back in July 2011. The goal of Phase One of the project included many new and general updates and upgrades, however the most important aspect is to completely update the entire Merrimack.edu website including the thousands of pages that branch off it, onto one consistent template.

This would set the stage perfectly for Phase Two of the project, which would be to update the new common template. After the first stage of the project was completed, the second stage (and the entire new site) was wrapped up just last month.

In addition to the typical options (Admissions, Academics, Athletics, etc.), Merrimack.edu has a few other features which set it apart from other college websites. On the new homepage, there is a large box with six tabs to choose from. You can choose to view the default top stories, look at a calendar of upcoming events, and check out links to connect to up to eight Merrimack departments on Facebook. There is also an option to follow up to five Merrimack departments on Twitter; a live Twitter feed right on the Merrimack.edu home page, a YouTube section with different Merrimack YouTube channels as well as a “Welcome to Merrimack” video and finally, a map of Merrimack College including directions to events happening on campus.

There are links to The Rogers Center for the Arts, employment opportunities at the school, a “pic of the day” and so much more; and that’s just on the home page. Even when there is an error on the site, a message will come up saying “A 404 error has brought you into the labyrinth. Meditate. Find your way back home,” right above a picture of the labyrinth outside of Austin Hall.

All of these small details really go to show how much work went into producing this project and with it, the college will level the playing field when prospective students decide to check out their potential future schools online.

New College Website a Hit

By The O’Brien Center for Student Success

The O’Brien Center for Student Success provides an education setting where undergraduate and graduate students have at their fingertips resources and services to prepare them for the 21st century workplace. The O’Brien Center for Student Success at the O’Brien Center to explore their personal and career interests in a variety of real-world settings; polish their professional brand; and utilize coaching and career resources to take proactive steps to achieve their personal and career goals.

Members of the O’Brien Center enthusiastically provide Merrimack students with opportunities that include but are not limited to: career and networking events, professional development programs, co-curricular education, internships, fellowships,研究 assistantships, employment opportunities, and even one-success coaching.

The Center’s peer advisors assist in this education by offering students advice, acting as a resource for cover letter critiques and general career advisement. Overall, the learning opportunities provided by the O’Brien Center for Student Success help prepare Merrimack undergraduates and graduates to compete successfully in today’s global workforce.

The O’Brien Center’s academic year kickoff event – the Career Carnival – provided an opportunity for students to connect with staff, explore resources and learn about upcoming programming opportunities.

In addition, on Thursday, the O’Brien Center hosted its 25th Annual Yard and Finance employers to campus in an effort to give students the opportunity to network and engage with professionals of the field. The event also provided students with the ability to showcase resumes to employers for prospective internship, co-op and job opportunities! A series of on-campus recruiting dates have been scheduled with employers interested with interviewing students, all of which can be found on Advantage, the campus recruiting network. To access advantage, visit http://www.merrimack.edu/do/advisor/.

In the coming weeks, the O’Brien Center will host a Non-Profit Career Fair, Internship Co-op Panel, Science Engineering/Technology Career Night, and more. Interested? Check out the opportunities available on Advantage!

Stephanie Kathleen Keele, a senior at Merrimack College studying International Business, Women’s Studies and Spanish has taken advantage of what the O’Brien Center has to offer – and it has paid off! Aside from actively engaging in some of her passions, which include scrapbooking, swimming, walking her two dogs and participating in community service, Stephanie is a determined and successful student. In May of 2013, Stephanie will graduate from Merrimack College and enter into her new position at BAE Systems. Stephanie states “I am excited to be a part of their company and their mission, we protect those who protect us.”

Stephanie reached her dream job by actively engaging in the opportunities at Merrimack College! “I would always attend Career Event Nights when I was available. I believe it’s an awesome experience for networking,” she explained.

Taking advantage of these opportunities led her to her current internship as Finance and Contracts Intern at BAE Systems. This internship provided her with a guaranteed, full-time position at BAE following graduation.

In expanding upon her internship experience, Stephanie also offered some valuable advice for current Merrimack students, “Get an internship and get help with your resume because standing out is really important.”

In addition to her internship, Stephanie took the lead in the classroom; “I always took the advantage of being the leader in group projects”.

In particular, Stephanie describes her success on a specific assignment, the X-Culture Project, which allowed her to further pursue her career development. She worked with a team of six other Merrimack students to develop a business plan for a global company. The process landed her a spot at an upcoming Business Conference in Florida this October.

“I enjoyed working across borders with this project, and I believe it helped me with my job search. During interviews, employers said that this project differentiated my resume from others,” explains Stephanie.

In the end, Stephanie provides this advice to other students: “Network! I hear that word multiple times, but it really helps especially with the economy today!”

Want to share your success story? Send an email to careergradassist-an@merrimack.edu! Follow the O’Brien Center for Student Success on Twitter: @OBrienCenterSS or stop in our office located on the second floor of the Sakowich Campus Center!
Option Adds Zip to Student Travel

Marrissa Diaz '15
Staff Writer

As part of the initiatives set forth by Campus Life, there are now two Zipcars in the Sakowich parking lot to help students at Merrimack get off campus without the difficulty of driving their own cars to campus.

The goals of this service are to allow the students of Merrimack College to rent one of two Zipcars for a low hourly rate of $7.50 or a daily rate of $69. All you have to do is be 18 years or older and simply sign up at www.zipcar.com/merrimack and pay a $25 membership fee. In one to two weeks students will have a Zipcard sent to them and from there they will have 24 hours a day, seven days a week access to the two Zipcars on campus.

The great feature that comes with signing up through Merrimack College is that students receive a student discount on the hourly rates as well as the luxury of having both the gas and insurance paid for by Zipcar. This is all part of Zipcars University Plan, that helps schools like Merrimack bring this service to their campus. Amanda Unis, coordinator of housing and residential services, describes Zipcar as a service that “gives the convenience of having access to a car without having a car.”

As of Sept. 25, close to 40 students had already signed up and are enjoying the benefits of having Zipcars on campus.

This new addition to campus not only brings relief to students without cars, but it also helps to reduce the need for students to have cars creating less overcrowding in the resident parking lots. While there are only two Zipcars on campus this semester there may be more in Merrimack’s future. This is dependent on the amount of use that these Zipcars get this year. For more information on Zipcars visit the Office of Residence Life on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center.

Her Campus Makes Merrimack Debut

By Christine Yee ’13
Staff Writer

There has been a recent buzz around campus about a new online magazine publication offered to the students at Merrimack College. Popular throughout many campuses around the nation, Her Campus magazine has brought excitement for aspiring writers, photographers and readers of every kind.

It brings the social aspects of what is happening at Merrimack in a relaxed social setting. Targeted to current and potential Merrimack students, the fun and energetic magazine is one both women and men can enjoy.

The greatest asset of Her Campus is that it is operated, edited, and marketed by two of Merrimack’s very own. Her Campus’s Editor in Chief, Sarah Buckwald, jumped into her Campus magazine was her calling. She knew, early on, that previous internships and interests in journalism would allow her to use her creativity and build a strong experience in the editorial field.

But she could not run the magazine alone. Sarah asked her friend, Joanna Kingston, junior, whose previous experience in newspaper editing and blogging were skilled assets needed to run the business side. Kingston is excited about Her Campus magazine because “we can get writers and editors to run campus in hopes of gaining popularity with current as well as future students.” Together they formed a partnership splitting the reins between Editor in Chief and Director of Business.

While both ladies contribute time and effort in writing articles, Buckwald puts her concentration on assigning stories, making edits and publishing the magazine once a week. Kingston has been working profusely on the marketing and social aspects, running the Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest accounts. Buckwald, Kingston and their team of writers have been working around the clock in preparing for their first issue, launching on Tuesday Sept. 25. With all this excitement, there is no telling who or what will be placed in the magazine. No one knows who is going to be voted as the next campus cutie or celebrity.

Buckwald describes Her Campus as “the college version of Cosmo” with its advice on dating, health, internship opportunities and so much more. The magazine offers health and beauty tips, campus news, polls, and photo blog. As Kingston stated, viewers are not limited to Merrimack’s campus. All of Her Campus’s publications are available to the public, through any campus, anytime.

So how did the idea of Her Campus get started? Three female undergraduates from Harvard University, entered Harvard’s business plan competition, The Innovation Challenge in March 2009. Upon winning, they moved on to working on Harvard College’s fashion and lifestyle online magazine to their very own Her Campus.


Inspired by their founders, Buckwald and Kingston are our very own entrepreneur jumpstarting a magazine, with the help of student writers and photographers. The ladies are open to all forms of ideas and suggestions which can be submitted through Her Campus website.

Buckwald stated, “As of now, Merrimack does not have a lot to offer in the journalism field. So, bringing Her Campus to Merrimack opens many opportunities for creative freelance writers.” Since they just released the first publication, they want to report on what readers want to hear, talk about and continue seeing.

Like what you read? Follow them at www.hercampus.com/merrimack, on Facebook at Her Campus at Merrimack College, on Twitter @HCmerrimack, or for Pinterest, Pinterest.com/HerCampusMC.

For anyone who’s interested in writing or photography for Her Campus, contact SarahBuckwald@HerCampus.com or Joanna Kingston@HerCampus.com.
Sparky’s Express Makes Lunch Even Faster

Lauren Bowers ’15
Staff Writer

Many Merrimack students are often faced with a lunchtime dilemma. It is noon on a work day and there are only 10 minutes to eat before the next class. Therefore, there is no time to sit down in Sparky’s or wait for a meal to be made at the Den; so what other options are there?

Sodexo realized that Merrimack students are constantly on-the-go, so they have created Sparky’s Express located right outside the Den in the Sakowich Center.

Sparky’s Express is a faster, easier dining alternative designed for students who want to take their lunch on the go.

By using a swipe from their meal plan, students are able to get an entire lunch: a sandwich or salad, a side, a dessert, and a drink. Sandwich options include ham and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, or a buffalo chicken wrap but differ week by week. There are also premade salads and fruit options, including grapes and apples.

When sophomore Taylor Mason went to Sparky’s Express for the first time, she was pleasantly surprised. “I used one swipe to get a buffalo chicken wrap, a bag of Lay’s Chips, a cup of grapes, two chocolate chip cookies and a diet Pepsi. It’s healthy, convenient, and you can take it back to your room,” she adds. “It’s good when you need something quick and you don’t want to go sit in Sparky’s.”

Christine Keenan, another sophomore, agreed. “It’s really convenient and I like the sandwiches here a lot more than the ones I would get in Sparky’s. It’s definitely my new favorite date spot. Now I just need them to let me use my swipes at the Den, too!”

While Sparky’s Express is specifically targeted toward resident students with meal plans, faculty, staff, and commuter students are also offered meal plans to receive a better Merrimack dining experience. The commuter meal plan allows students to eat up to five meals per week at Sparky’s Place or Sparky’s Express and also includes one hundred Bonus Den Dollars.

Merrimack faculty and staff can also save up to 57 percent by purchasing one of the four faculty and staff meal plans at the Dining Office.

In the first month of operation, Sparky’s Express has already become a popular spot on campus. Students and faculty are enjoying this quick and simple dining experience and are looking forward to what is to come.

Sparky’s Express is in the Sak. Hours are Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Augie’s Pub: Merrimack’s Own Claddagh

Sarah Buckwald ’14
Staff Writer

Since the grand opening of Augie’s Pub in the Sakowich Campus Center last September, there have been a lot of discussions focused on this new bar hangout. Over the last year, the quaint pub has been used for many events and activities, and has only increased the sense of community on Merrimack’s campus.

During the first week of school, the dueling pianos made their return to Merrimack. For those who are not aware of this awesome entertainment act, two talented pianists sang a variety of songs that filled the room with great energy. The dueling pianos act made their first appearance last year during senior week and were brought back by popular demand.

Junior Brennan Twardowski was amazed by the performance. “It was really cool to watch the guys sing all types of songs while playing both pianos.” Students were able to enjoy this show, as well as the Patriots game in Augie’s last week.

Students have truly enjoyed Augie’s experience and are patiently waiting to revisit for more events this semester.

Senior Carly Sullivan said, “I haven’t been to Augie’s since last year, but the last time I went during an all ages event sponsored by MPB. It was such a fun atmosphere!”

Merrimack Programming Board is working hard to host exciting activities at Augie’s. The pub has its own committee this year for students who have creative ideas to make Augie’s a better place.

So far, the students involved requested to lengthen the hours on weekends keeping the pub open until one A.M. The extended hours on the weekends will certainly attract more students.

This year Merrimack Programming Board is featuring a new and upcoming coffee house series in Augie’s on Thursday nights. This new happening is perfect for anyone who wants to show off a hidden talent or perform for fun in front of a great crowd.

The coffee house began on Sept. 20 with Lesley Pike. The folk artist recently released a new album titled “Tug of War”. This Canadian singer has been touring for the past four years around the United Kingdom and America.

She has already played over 400 shows and even opened for Darius Rucker. The performances are open to all ages, so stop by to see artists like Lesley and many more perform at Augie’s.

With all these upcoming, students wonder, will Augie’s become the new Claddaugh?

Watch for breaking news updates at www.merrimacknewspaper.com

Coming this week:
New direction for Hamel Health Center
Modern-Day Warrior Week 1: Denying the Flesh

By Patrick Lawlor

The Project: For the next few months, I have challenged myself. I will spend three months depriving myself — a month without meat, a month without smart phone and social media, and a month without alcohol. The fourth month I will take something on: I will practice all formal contemporary etiquette, codified by the Emily Post Institute.

I am just past the one-week mark of the Modern Day Warrior Project, making it my first week as a vegetarian. The first week is going better than expected; actually I haven’t noticed it all that much. While my carnivorous roommates often crack jokes about what kind of meats I am missing, I have surprised myself in the kitchen as well.

The first day as a vegetarian I made pasta with garlic and olive oil with cherry tomatoes, a very good salad bar, opposite the soup station. (I am pleased Jay DeGioia, Merrimack Dining’s general manager, has also vowed to be vegetarian during the same time I have vowed to abstain.)

Why be a vegetarian? Let’s define that first. A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat. This includes chicken, beef, pork, fish, and any other flesh from an animal. Typically vegetarians allow themselves to eat eggs, cheese, and dairy products. A pescatarian is someone who abstains from eating the flesh of any animal with the exception of fish. Taking things further, vegans don’t eat anything that came from an animal. Some extreme vegans refuse to wear leather belts or have leather wallets. People choose not to consume animals for a variety of reasons. For some, it’s health; they think consuming meat is not good for their bodies. There are environmentalists who believe the amount of water and resources used to raise beef could be better utilized, and for that reason, passively object to the consumption of meat. And some see the consumption of animals as unethical, saying it is unfair to eat once-breathing and living animals, and others have a problem with the way animals are raised with hormones, put through filthy slaughterhouses, and brought to our plates.

I have surprised myself in the kitchen as well. My weight has stayed the same, which pleases me, but I am now realizing I need to get more protein, so I have made an effort to eat more peanut butter and yogurt. I’m not the kind of person that can drink glasses of milk, but maybe I will have to start with that.

At Sparky’s Place, one can easily find the new vegetarian station. It is in between the sandwich line and salad bar. With a lack of front desk attendants a question of safety may come into play. When asked if she felt safe she did not skip a beat before answering “absolutely” then continued, “you can’t get into the building without a Mack-Card.”

Advice from a grad

Ryan Flanigan ’12

Note: We asked last year’s graduating Beacon staffers to leave behind advice for future Merrimack students. This is the first installment.

My advice to incoming freshman is to get involved in school. Whether it is in sports, the community, or within school, students have such a wide array of options to participate in and meet new people. It makes the time here that much more enjoyable and helps garner long lasting friendships.

The student experience is so dependent on the actions of the student so this is a way to help it be a positive one. You don’t want to look back four years down the road and say “I wish I did this” or “I wish I did that.”

Make the most out of the four years at college by involving yourself in the opportunities that the school offers.
The Assault on Freedom of Speech

Roger McCormack ‘14

The potent outcry of hate exploding throughout the Middle East is engen- dering discussion regarding the limits of Free Speech. The First Amendment de- fines free speech to include truth. However, the denunciation of unorthodox political figures, or the denial of benefits to individuals who have been critical of religious groups, leads to the question of whether free speech can be used to incite violence. Such an argument is being made in response to the attacks on the Charlie Hebdo newspaper in France.

The Charlie Hebdo newspaper, which has been桑the target of attacks in the past, has published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. These cartoons have been deemed offensive by some Muslims, who believe that they are disrespectful of their religion. The French government has indicated that it will not suppress free speech, even in cases where it may be offensive to certain groups.

This is not to suggest that freedom of speech should be used to incite violence or to promote hatred. It is important to remember that freedom of speech is a privilege, not a right. It is important to use it responsibly, and to respect the views of others, even if they are different from our own.

In conclusion, free speech is a fundamental right, but it must be used responsibly. It is important to remember that free speech is not an absolute right, and that there are limits to what can be said. It is important to respect the views of others, and to use free speech in a way that promotes understanding and respect, rather than incitement and hate.
Freedom of Speech Under Assault

Freedom of Speech

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However, this is not just a global issue, but a fervent domestic one. The recent attempt by the University of Cincinnati to abrogate free speech on its general campus, instead relegating its general campus, instead relegating to a minority portion of the school’s campus, displays the decrepitude of intellectual inquiry present among college campuses. Thankfully, the school’s attempt at delineating a “free speech zone” met with derision and public derision, including the special collective of students, alumni, faculty and friends committed to creating the Theatre that examines socially significant topics.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right. It is the cornerstone of a free society, enabling individuals to express their ideas, beliefs, and opinions without fear of censorship or retaliation. Freedom of speech is not just a theoretical concept; it is a practical tool that empowers individuals to make informed decisions and shape a vibrant and dynamic society.

In a world where wars and dictatorships are so common that we hardly take any time to think about them, Macbeth serves as a stark reminder of all the pain that human beings experience at the hands of those who seek power.

Even to those who are unfamiliar with the language of Shakespeare, the play’s themes speak for themselves when viewed through a contemporary lens. Although marketing Shakespeare to the general public is always tough, Father Piatt is confident that he has created a production that will appeal to a wide audience.

“If you’ve never seen Shakespeare, if you’re nervous about Shakespeare, come see it. You’ll understand what’s going on,” he says.

This play is presented through both the college’s department of Visual and Performing Arts and the Genesius Project, a joint venture of students, alumni, faculty and friends committed to creating the theatre that examines socially significant topics.

If you’d like to experience it for yourself, the play will be performed at the Rogers Center for the Arts on Oct. 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m.
**New Faces Atop Athletics Department**

By: Michael Romanella ‘13  
*Sports Editor*

If you happen to walk or drive through campus you cannot help but see the constant changes happening at Merrimack. While most of these are physical changes, many are in personnel.

After the summer resignation of Glenn Hofmann as athletic director, Dean O’Keefe was named interim athletic director. Also joining athletic leadership is ice hockey coach Mark Dennehy as associate athletic director, along with basketball coach Monique LeBlanc, who was also named associate athletic director.

“Coach Dennehy has been a huge part in the Merrimack athletics department for a number of years and has proven to be a leader in the department, he’s a natural fit,” O’Keefe said “Coach LeBlanc is a young up-and-coming coach who has more talent that just Xs and Os.”

The athletic department isn’t just about the group at the top, though. Brad Davis has also entered a new role taking on associate athletic director for external relations. Davis has played a huge role in working on hockey’s new television package, which will showcase more games than ever, with 12 games being televised – eight of them on national television.

New teams continue to be added every year, with recent additions of women’s crew and golf. O’Keefe said he is excited with these new teams and where they have come in such a short time. Women’s crew will be competing in the Head of Charles in Boston, against teams such as Yale and Harvard. Women’s golf just got back from Pennsylvania where they competed against 15 other Division 2 schools, finishing fourth. O’Keefe said to not be surprised if you see more teams being added in the near future with the likes of a women’s hockey team being thrown into the mix soon.

But that’s not all that’s new in athletics. Additions to the Volpe Athletic Center and the new Center for Sports Medicine are currently under construction. The plan is to be finished by the summer of 2013, with the bookstore being moved into Volpe and nine new locker rooms being added. These buildings are not just for the student-athletes though; they are going to be used for many events held on campus.

“I feel the whole college is going forward in a very positive manner, not just in the athletics department,” O’Keefe added.

The athletics department’s main goal is to still pursue avenues towards Division 1 status.

The department as a whole has to keep pushing forward with new teams and state-of-the-art facilities for these goals to be met, but O’Keefe said is achievable.
MC Earns First Conference Win

Evan Mercier '14
Staff Writer

The football team collected its first conference win on Saturday against Southern Connecticut, and its second overall win of the season.

Senior quarterback Joe Clancy came out on top, throwing for a total of 274 yards and rushing for 200 yards. This was the key factor in the offense’s 38 points, just edging out the Owls by 3.

Clancy wasn’t the only one taking the Warriors down field. Senior Isaiah Voegeli also contributed with a team-high of five catches for 87 yards and two touchdowns. Along with junior Quinn McDonough who also buried a pair of two touchdowns.

“Do your job, and take responsibility,” says senior captain Jenn Pino.

We do not rely on individuals; we work together in order to accomplish our mission.

Jenn Pino, senior soccer captain

ON THE MOVE: Jimonnie Hill picks up some yardage.

Photo by Patrick Coskren

Not only did the defense prevent the Owls from scoring but they also helped put points up on the board from junior defensive back Ervin Shields.

Now improving to 2-2, the Warriors hope to carry this momentum into this Saturday’s game versus Pace University in New York.

“I think we’ve improved a lot in the past few weeks and we’ve really started to come together as a team,” said Warriors freshman Kyle Shields.

“We are really coming together as a team right now and that’s allowing us to execute at the level that we need.”

The team continues to develop and looks forward with the hopes of an NE-10 championship run in their near future. With only five more games left in the season there is little margin for error but there are many reasons for optimism.

Toughness Key for Women’s Soccer

Pat Bradley ‘14
Staff Writer

“Practice hard and you’ll reap the benefits.”

This simple quote rings prominent in the ears of all the women’s soccer players as the underlying theme of their season. For their time though, practicing hard doesn’t just mean sweating and running. Instead, the team has a new tactic for success: mental toughness.

“As girls, we’re all head cases”, says junior forward and leading scorer Danielle Dion.

While there’s a solid foundation to argue that those extra sprints and repetitions make the difference on game day, the Warriors already have those skills down fairly well. Instead, the team has a new tactic for success: mental toughness.

“Anything can happen’ is what she always preaches,” adds Dion, “just understanding your role and executing it. She pushes you. She’s been a big piece to the season, but we’ve acted on it.”

The strategy is working, as the team has come out blazing to a 6-2 overall start (4-1 conference, 3-0 home). Across the board, the team largely contributes its success to team chemistry.

Without the communication and team camaraderie they’ve built, victories would be hard to come by.

“It’s how we win”, says Pino. “In my four seasons here, this team is the closest I’ve seen it. We do not rely on individuals; we work together in order to accomplish our mission.”

That mission is certainly in sight as far as the students are concerned. One student commented, “There’s definitely a buzz surrounding the team this year, especially after all they accomplished last season.”

Fan support has been a welcome boost thus far, as the team is seeing record-numbers for student attendance at home games.

With all systems go, Martone-Mejail Field is quickly becoming the place to be during home events.

“We will give you something to remember”, said Dion, “We have a name to fight for and a win to fight for and we’re just as proud as any other team on campus.”

The Women’s Warrior Soccer team next takes the field at home Wednesday, Oct. 3 against St. Anselm (1-5-1, overall) at 7 p.m. and again Saturday, Oct. 6 vs. American International (4-2-1, overall) at 4.

The ladies will celebrate Senior Day on Oct. 20 vs. Adelphi University. Be sure to check out http://www.merrimackathletics.com/ticketing/ultimate/events for when you can gain Ultimate Warrior Points at the women’s soccer games.