Since President Hopey took office last July, Merrimack has seen dramatic changes in the way the college presents itself and the way it does business. Hopey has added higher administration positions and has shaken things up in the area of Student Life.

DeVeau Gone

Just after the first semester, Dean of Students Shawn DeVeau’s position was terminated. DeVeau was in charge of the Student Life Office, The Office of Community Standards, International Programs, and Career Services.

“This was nothing against Shawn, we like Shawn,” President Christopher Hopey said. “This is a better model that will focus on students.” The position change was a move to utilize staff and resources in the Student Life realm, and maximize the student experience, he said.

With Fr. Ray Dlugos as vice president of mission and student affairs, Dlugos oversees Campus Ministry, Campus Life, Career Services and International Programs, as well as other offices. “This new model will allow us to hire more people in Campus Life,” Dlugos explained.

MC = More Changes

Merrimack Upgrades Race Forward

MC = More Changes

Stand Up!

Ludacris headlines as Spring Concert Performer

Jessica Morse and Agata Adamczuk, ’13
Staff Writers

From country to rock n’ roll, and from jazz to reggae, hip-hop is the most listened to genre of music of our generation and was the top pick of Merrimack’s student body for our second Spring Weekend Concert performer. With overwhelming feedback from the students, Merrimack College managed to book Ludacris, a big time rap artist. Although Ludacris’ cost is twice as much as last years performers, student involvement is hoping that with a more notable performer it will bring in a larger crowd and more excitement among the student body. The Assistant Director of Student Involvement, Nick Lowery says that “this is probably one of the biggest things that has happened at Merrimack in a while.” As a result, students will have to pay $10 for tickets, any guest will have to pay $25, and alumni cost is $20. Tickets will be available to students on February 12th after Moonlight Bingo in the Warriors Den. Ticket sales will be also be extended to local colleges in the area as far south as Boston, as far north as Manchester, as far east as the Northshore area providing tickets for Endicott College, and as far west as Worcester. Tickets for these local schools are going on sale February 23th. All tickets going on sale are advertised to be 18+, due to an overwhelming attendance of junior high and high school students at last years concert; although they will not be carded at the door.

See “SPRING CONCERT” continued on page 3

Embrace the Date
Snow Removal
Police Log
Basketball

Opinion
Sports

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From Residence Life...

The room selection process for 2011-2012 is underway and the most important date is Friday, March 4, 2011.

The $500 deposit is due to the Bursar’s office by Friday, March 4, 2011 by 4:30 PM.

Students who do not pay the deposit will NOT receive a time to participate in the room selection process and cannot be pulled into a room as someone’s roommate if the deposit has not been paid on time.

Current students will select their housing for the 2011-2012 year between March 29-31.

Know Your Augustinians

The “Know Your Augustinians” campaign is an initiative by The Beacon to strengthen the awareness of Merrimack’s Augustinian tradition and heritage by allowing our readers to recognize the members of the Order of Saint Augustine currently at Merrimack.

Fr. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A
Vice President for Mission and Student Affairs

How long have you been at Merrimack?
I am in the middle of my third year.

How long have you been an Augustinian?
33 years, a priest for 27.

What is your favorite subject to study?
My PhD is in Psychology, but my favorite subject to study is Christology.

What is it like being an Augustinian?
Very enriching, challenging, and a lot of fun.

What were your previous assignments before Merrimack?
I taught high school in Naples, Florida, I was an Associate Pastor near Philadelphia, I was the Vocation Director for the Augustinians, and after graduate studies at SUNY, Albany, I worked from 1999-2008 at the Southdown Institute in Aurora, Ontario. The Southdown Institute is a residential treatment center for priests, and religious men and women with psychological problems. From 2003-2008, I was the CEO of the Southdown Institute. Before becoming Vice President for Mission and Student Affairs, I was the Vice President of Mission and Ministry here at Merrimack.

What is Merrimack doing best?
Helping students grow, develop, and mature into responsible adults and contributing citizens.

What does Merrimack need to do better?
Embrace its spiritual foundation, and incorporate and integrate it into everything we do.
In the summer Donna Swartwout was promoted to dean of campus life, overseeing Residence Life and Student Involvement. Now, Alison Gill, former director of Community Standards and Orientation Programs, is the assistant dean of Campus Life.

Changes in positions are common, as many of the staff positions are entry level. Tim Cormio left Merrimack in December and will be replaced by Allison Stinson, currently at Salem State, according to Campus Life officials. Cormio was assistant director of Student Life, in charge of programs, and more specifically, the Spring Concert.

Other changes in Campus Life include the promotion of Sara Hicks to associate director of Residence Life.

“We are hoping to hire a director of student involvement in July, and bring someone in that has had experience at different schools,” Dlugos explained.

Hopey Adds Vice Presidents and Outlines Visions

Hopey has filled up his cabinet, adding many vice president positions; some were immediate upon his arrival last year, and some have been added recently. Hopey brought with him Lisa Jebali to be his special assistant and manager of executive affairs. He also made former Vice President of Institutional Advancement Joe Kelley the assistant to the president for development and mission. Jim Dennis is now vice president for advancement.

Also joining the presidential staff is Merrimack legend Fr. Jim Weitzel, O.S.A, as the president’s special assistant for Augustinian advancement.

As the college’s chief legal counsel, C. Alexa Abowitz joined Merrimack as the vice president of administration and general counsel. Abowitz oversees the “cost centers” — Police Services, Information Technology, Purchasing, and Personnel, non-revenue-producing departments — and acts as the college’s lawyer. She said her role will focus on “maximizing the experience at Merrimack.”

Abowitz, formerly with a law firm, comes to Merrimack having worked as counsel to the college in the past. It is a common model for a college to have an attorney in-house.

Working with Abowitz is former presidential chief of staff Linda Murphy, who is now the assistant vice president for administration and personnel. Hopey also brought with him Kristin Greene to replace Mary Lou Retelle as vice president of enrollment management, planning and strategy.

In advancement, Vice President of College Relations and External Affairs Michael Accardi, coming from Northeastern as well, is charged with getting Merrimack College out there and opening up opportunities for students and faculty.

“It is my job to find resources for any part of the college,” Accardi explained. “I focus on customer service, I want Merrimack to be presented to new audiences, attract new on-operative education opportunities for students.”

Accardi also said he plans to move forward with fundraising for Student Life.

Ray Shaw, former assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, is now the vice provost.

Student Services to See Major Upgrade

While construction has been under way in both the Sakowich Center and the new Merrimack Club, the campus has also seen construction in the library, and should see some changes in Austin Hall.

According to the president, the Merrimack Club will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as a faculty dining room. Faculty can invite students to have lunch with committees to hire a registrar and dean of admissions and financial aid, explained Hopey.

“A want students to be able to walk in and see Financial Aid, the bursar and the registrar, all in one stop,” Hopey said. There will soon be search committees to hire a registrar and a dean of admissions and financial aid, explained Hopey.

Also a search for a provost will be put in place.

“Spring Concert” continued from page 1

The Spring Concert will be on Saturday April 16th in the Volpe Arena, doors opening at 8pm. Ludacris will perform for about an hour with his guest performer Ruddy Curren, who has been on his record label for three years, as the opening act. His performance is going to be about 45 minutes, making the show to be close to two hours. There will be a concession stand serving food and non-alcoholic beverages such as soda and water. Ludacris’ performance will be an exciting closing to 2011’s Spring Weekend leaving the seniors with something to remember and the freshman something to look forward to. “The concert’s going to be ludacris” says freshman Ryan Johnson.

Embrace the Date

“Don’t be a Snooki”

Amanda Morris, ’14
Staff Writer

Love is in the air, and Valentine’s Day is right around the corner. The Merrimack Campus Ministry, Campus Life, and Hamel Health Services have put together an initiative titled “Embrace the Date” to ensure students build healthy relationships.

On Feb. 7, Boston College Professor Kerry Cronin, a relationships expert, discussed dating and having healthy relationships on campus. The event was called “Don’t be Snooki - Learn How to Date,” located in the Murray Lounge at 6 p.m.

The night of Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, there will be a bus trip to Boston. The cost of the trip is $2 for dinner at the restaurant Fire and Ice. After dinner there will be time to explore the city. You can partake in activities such as ice skating, shopping, or seeing a movie. This trip is open to all Merrimack students, couples or non-couples. Departure time for this event will be at 5:45 p.m., and signups started in Campus Ministry on Friday, Feb. 4.

On Feb. 23, The Newlywed Game will be held in the Community Dining Room. Students will be competing against each other for great prizes. Sign-ups for this event also started in Campus Ministry on Feb. 4. All of these activities are being held to ensure that students engage in happy and healthy relationships.

When Brian Suehs-Vassel, campus minister for service opportunities, was asked, “Do you think this campaign will be helpful for students?” his response was: “Absolutely. It’s a great opportunity to find real happiness in relationships.”

Merrimack is also planning a followup initiative named “Respect the Date” which is going to be presented to higher awareness on the subject of sexual assault. This campaign is expected to take place in early March.
Mass Attendance
Task Force Formed

Abigail Clark, ’12
Copy Editor

In November, Merrimack students, faculty, and staff created a task force to try to raise the number of students who go to Mass. At a Catholic institute of higher education, to attend Mass at all. To bring attendance numbers up at Sunday Mass, the new task force is coming out with ideas.

Why is Mass attendance important? According to Father Ray Dugos, students of the Catholic faith should go to Mass to pray every week because, “If I pray just by myself I might not have to see and hear and even touch another person, how do I know that I am not just talking to myself?”

“Going to Mass is the way that Catholics pray together, listen together to what God is asking of us and hearing God’s invitation to love one another,” he said. “If we skip that, then we may well be limiting who we are called to love and missing a big part of what God is asking of us.”

Finally, Fr. Ray stressed the importance of praying and of the community praying together. He remarked, “A commitment to pray together with others at a designated time is a commitment to really listen to God speak to us, tell us what God thinks is important for us, and that may actually reduce a lot of the stress that many of us experience trying to figure out what we are supposed to do and who we are supposed to please. That is just good psychological as well as good emotional health.”

In order to fulfill the wishes of Fr. Ray, and ultimately God Himself, the task force has been formed. This Mass attendance task force is a committee made up of Merrimack faculty members, staff, and students. Their meetings began last November to bring their ideas and plans into fruition this spring semester.

Beginning next Monday, February 14, a survey will be available on Main Street for students to take regarding their thoughts about going to Mass. Those who participate in the survey will be entered into a raffle for a $50 gift card to the bookstore.

Also, any student interested in being in the focus group regarding Mass attendance can indicate this on their survey.

Be on the lookout for the Mass attendance survey next week to help Campus Ministry and the Task Force, as well as a chance to win a $50 gift card.

Access Denied
Santagati 24 hour access shut off

According to Residence Life officials, access to Santagati Hall for non-residents of the building will be limited. Only residents of Santagati will be allowed to swipe in between the hours of 12 am and 8 am. A petition created by residents prompted the change, according to Residence Life. According to sources, crowds and glass bans that could have been caused by non-residents is what prompted the petition. Damages and vandalism increased when all residents were given access to the hall.

Snow Hits Merrimack Hard
Physical Plant Keeps Up

Alexandra Picardi, ’13
News Editor

This winter has already left Merrimack covered in a blanket of snow, and the bitter cold is a continual presence as sheets of ice form all over campus. With resident students returning just three weeks ago, Merrimack has already experienced one delayed start, a day ending at noon, and a snow day. Even though this has been one of the worst winters in awhile for the Merrimack Valley — and is nowhere near over — Physical Plant has been working around the clock to ensure safety for students and faculty.

Along with a group of student workers and some helpful machinery, staffers have been keeping up with the snow as it falls by plowing streets, shoveling walkways, and clearing entrances to buildings all around campus. Physical Plant’s job does not end when the storm is over; the staff can be found debrising the campus almost every day and dealing with complications in dorms, and classroom buildings that the weather has caused.

Although Physical Plant’s staff has played a major factor in keeping campus running smoothly in this harsh weather, they are not the only ones who have contributed. Police Services, Campus Life, and the Student Government Association (SGA) have all aided in keeping day-to-day activities available to students even when campus is closed. There have been no serious injuries to students and faculty, nor any car accidents reported on campus, according to Police Service records.

Though campus officials are the top tier of safety influence on campus, students have played a huge role during the past two storms.

Police Services and SGA have successfully run two snow removal programs from parking lots 8a, 8b, and 8c. According to SGA, 650 cars are registered to be parked in these lots, and during the first snow removal plan only six cars did not comply, leaving a 99 percent success rate.

Timothy Smith, SGA president, commented on the students’ involvement in helping with snow removal: “In my three and a half years of being here I have never seen the student body work together so successfully in getting something accomplished at this school. I was very proud to be a Merrimack student that day.”

The snow has not hindered Campus Life’s and SGA’s plans for spring semester; they have continued to hold events and programs on campus. Although SGA has had to cancel one meeting, members do not see it getting in the way of their future plans for an exciting spring semester.

According to Smith, “The snow was a reason for a canceled meet- ing, but I do not think that this is putting us behind on anything. We realize that this spring semester is incredibly short and every meeting is important, but it is also impor- tant to keep morale up and work on doing a small amount of this very well.”

Donna Swartwout, dean of Campus Life, stated, “The snow has not affected the programs and events we have planned for students. We still held interviews for students wanting to apply to be senior resident advisers on Wednesday and we still held training for referees for intramurals.”

Although about 80 percent of the student body lives on campus, the school did not neglect the 20 percent who are commuting along with the professors and administration coming from their homes.

Safety is a top priority at Merrimack no matter where students and faculty are coming from, Smith stated. “The roads are very dangerous this time of year so we do need to take them into account,” he said. “We are a New England school and we must deal with the weather as Mother Nature brings it. The best thing I think we can do is roll with the punches and try to make up for lost time the best we can.”
WE WANT YOU...

To write for
The Beacon

Have any opinions you want
to share with Merrimack College?

Contact an editor
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Interested in being a social change leader on campus?

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The Merrimack Valley Sandbox Initiative and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UMass Lowell is interested in students like YOU who are passionate about social change or enterprise and want to work on it through the semester! Seed capital is available to support the most promising projects. Grab a few of your friends and submit an application by Feb 18, 2011!

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Check it out today at the Communication Arts & Sciences Department!
Verizon Wireless’ DroidX is the newest addition to the Android Family in cellular devices. With its multimedia functions and lightning speed, it is the closest competition any mobile provider has had with Apple’s iPhone.

Despite its large size, a 4.3 inch touchscreen, the DroidX is bringing big things to the Verizon network creating a device that is both quick and convenient. The large touchscreen at first is a turnoff, but the images displayed on the screen are both clear and vibrant, enhancing the multimedia aspects above all previous smartphones. Applications on the phone are easily downloadable and majority of the most common applications can be found in the free applications.

“My favorite applications is the game Angry Birds and my access to the current sports games scores as they are happening” says first time user, Carl Rizzo. “This is my first smartphone and I know I made a great choice. It’s so easy to navigate.”

The phone is self explanatory when looking at each of the five home screens provided. One of which is created solely for social networking giving you updates on the latest twitter and facebook accounts.

The DroidX can be used for both personal and work related use with the ability to add multiple e-mail addresses and contact information that can be separated by groups.

The negatives about this phone include no front facing camera and adjusting to the Swype keyboard style. Overall, the phone is user friendly for all levels of use and will simplify your life.

Located outside the center of Andover and right near the train station, there is a hidden quaint Japanese style restaurant called Mootone. Few people know of its existence but it has a lot to offer. As you walk into the restaurant, you find yourself being immersed in the culture of the Far East. From the furniture to the wall decorations, oriental details are everywhere. Mootone is a casual restaurant, so reservations aren’t necessary. There are three different areas within the restaurant: a sit down dinner area that is perfect for casual dates, a teppanyaki style section making it a fun and entertaining place to grab a bite to eat with friends, and a sushi bar for a more laid back feel.

Mootone has a Japanese style menu serving the typical dishes such as miso soup, all different types of stir-fry, tempura, and a wide variety of sushi rolls. There is even a special roll dedicated to the town of Andover called the Andover Maki which is my personal favorite. The service at Mootone is very fast and the staff members are polite and friendly. This fantastic local restaurant also has a take out and delivery service for good food on the go. I would recommend Mootone to any sushi fanatic. You really cannot go wrong with this laid-back restaurant; it has won numerous awards over the years for their delicious Japanese food and impeccable service.

No Strings Attached

Kayla Morong, ’12
Sports Editor

Relationships can be rocky — you may face problems or experience moments where you are head over heels for your partner. However, have you ever met someone you truly cared about, but they did not want to be in a committed relationship? "No Strings Attached" is a movie that depicts this scenario.

Adam (Ashton Kutcher) and Emma (Natalie Portman) are two individuals who use each other for sex. Little do they know that they share deeper feelings for each other, which surfaces as the movie progresses. Portman plays a doctor who is timid when it comes to relationships. She would rather have sex with a guy than being committed to someone. Kutcher, on the other hand, works on a set of a television show and recently has experienced a breakup.

When Adam goes to his dad’s house to ask him to read a script he wrote, he finds out that his dad is dating his ex-girlfriend. The news hits Adam hard, resulting in a night of drinking and partying. The next morning, Adam finds himself in Emma’s home, naked. Embarrassed, Adam asks for his clothes back while inquiring about his night from Emma. During their discussion, they get caught up in the moment, resulting in the first of many steamy hookups.

Over time, Adam develops feelings for Emma, causing her to become fearful of their relationship. Emma pushes him away due to her fear of being broken-hearted. After speaking with her mother while driving to her sister's wedding reception, she realizes that she truly loves Adam and decides she wants him in her life.

This comical, rated R movie is filled with moments of laughter and romance that keep the audience entertained until the end. As a viewer, I thought this was one of Kutcher’s strongest performances. He did a great job keeping the audience alert and adding to the comical atmosphere. In addition, Portman did a good job fulfilling her character — however, I thought she has had stronger films in her career.

For those who enjoy romantic comedies, this would be a great movie for you. It is filled with moments of comic behavior that will keep you enthralled until the ending credits.
Letter to the Editor
Dean Swartwout Addresses Students

Dear MC Students,

As I write this the first week of the semester has ended. And what a first week back: students returned from an alternative winter break trip in DC, MPB offered great welcome week activities including a post game party on Friday night where the spring concert was revealed (Ludacris in case you missed it); the men and women's basketball team won games on Saturday and the hockey team beat UVM in front of a great student cheering section on Saturday night seen by many on NESN TV. On Sunday, we hosted an Open House for the class of 2015 and so many students worked to make this event successful: student ambassadors, event planning staff and all the students who worked the Campus Life Fair in the Rogers Center. Members of Board of Trustees were on campus and they had lunch with 26 students who represented the broad spectrum of our community. Finally, on Monday over 99% of the students who had cars on campus managed to move them so Physical Plant could plow the student parking lot before the next snow storm. SGA representatives did a wonderful job of getting the word out to everyone.

Why am I recapping this week? It was an amazing week and I just wanted to say thank you to the too many to name who made it so amazing!

Here’s to more great weeks in the spring semester!
Donna Swartwout
Dean of Campus Life

Questions on the Quad
What are your plans for Valentine’s Day?

Taking Nick Drew on a date, because his smile is brighter than the sun.
-Kyle Bigos, 2013

Get a date. Get to first base. Diamonds.
-Kelsie Rogers, 2012

Going on a romantic date.
-Greg Melaugh, 2013
2012

My boyfriend’s coming up from home.
-Savanna Ellis, 2014

How do you feel about the school’s laundry services?

We have to pay way too much.
-Matt Dellaquila, 2013

It’s horrible. The clothes don’t dry.
-Inna Hedden, 2014

It would be cool if there were laundry services in each building.
-Alex Casell, 2014

I go home to do my laundry because it’s dirty and gross.
-Alyssa Carrick, 2014
Opinion
Theology With Tim Rome

Tim Iannacone, ’12
Staff Writer

Greetings to my readers from Rome! I have decided to take a semester abroad to further my theological and philosophical studies and thought, what better place than Rome? Before my semester officially began, I decided to arrive three weeks early. During my three weeks I had the privilege of staying with the Augustinians in Rome at Santa Monica who live directly across the street from St. Peters Basilica or better known as the Vatican. The time there was absolutely amazing. Between visiting friends at the North American College (priestly training) and seeing the sights around Rome, the days just flew by.

The Augustinian community in Rome was so pleasant and hospitable to me; I truly wanted to dedicate this Theology with Tim article to them. Upon my arrival I was greeted by Fr. George Lawless O.S.A. from the Province of St. Tomas of Villanova, a class mate of Fr. Jim Wenzel O.S.A. Fr. Lawless is not only a resident of the house in Rome but he is also considered one of the most brilliant Augustinian scholars in our contemporary age as being not only a professor at the Patristicum but also the Pontifical Gregorian University. Fr. Bob Guesetto O.S.A. who graciously allowed me to stay with Augustinians is another American from the province of St. Thomas. Fr. Guesetto is in charge of all men preparing to be ordained to the priesthood through the Augustinian order at Santa Monica in Rome.

The days at Santa Monica are nothing but ordinary. Men who are already ordained and novices (studying for the priesthood) appear from all over the globe. Many are studying at the Patristicum which is the Augustinians school for patristic studies which is also on the same grounds as Santa Monica. These men are so full of life and have a deep passion for St. Augustine and play pool, watch a movie, and even go out into the city of Rome for a drink.

One of my favorite perspectives of the Augustinians here is that they live in community. That word is very important in any religious order especially the Augustinians. Meals are eaten together, mass is said together, and the liturgy of the hours takes place with all Augustinians gathered in the community chapel. The community life at Santa Monica truly reflects the community life at Merrimack. Similar to Catholic which means universal, the Augustinians whether in Rome or North Andover show and share the same mutual charity, humility, and active/contemplative life. I have started to begin not only my academic semester but my own personal pilgrimage where the teaching of St. Augustine and the Church fathers teach us service and to grow in knowledge of God. Since my time thus far in Rome I would strongly urge all those who have never read anything theological in their life to first read the Church Fathers. Their works provide us with invaluable spiritual guidance which leads us to the heart of all things.

I will keep my readers informed theologically and spiritually this semester in Rome as I move into my new permanent residence. If there are any question about the theological and philosophical program I am participating in which is offered by the University of St. Thomas and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, please let me know.

Police Log

01/23/2011 13:37 INFO– Police
An officer from Waltham Police Department called to inform Police Services that a Merrimack College resident had come into the Waltham Police Department to file a report against another Merrimack College resident for sending harassing texts and reports she will be transported to LGH. All reports assessing the female resident and categorized female. Officer was dispatched and requests NAFD for a 20 male that fell down near the bridge behind O’Reilly and could not get up. Unit was dispatched and requests NAFD for a 20 year old female student Samantha that was conscious and alert but was having back spasms. NAFD is enroute at 10:59 hours. They were on scene at 11:03 hours. Unit reports she will be transported to LGH. All clear at 11:15 hours.

2/3/2011 22:35 SUSPICIOUS – Person/Vehicle/Activity
Resident student called to report a suspicious male walking around the 3rd floor of a resident building. Unit was dispatched and reports that he spoke to the male who fit the description. The male is a resident who is new to Merrimack and was walking around to meet people.

Officer reports confiscating twenty-four beer cans (Natural Ice) from resident.

MCPCD received a call from an RA stating that she needed assistance with an intoxicated female student. Officer reports assessing the female resident and requesting the NAFD. They arrived at 11:59 PM. After assessment, resident was transported to Lawrence General Hospital. Unit clear at 12:10 AM.
Rodgers Earns His Belt
Packers win Super Bowl

Mark Lindquist, '11
Staff Writer

For the Green Bay Packers it was the season filled with injuries, questions, and a newly emerged star quarterback that after suffering two concussions, got his lowest playoff seed. Sixth place NFC team to the Super Bowl to defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25. Despite numerous drops by his receivers, Rodgers threw the ball exceptionally well completing 24 of 39 passes (61%) for 3 touchdowns and no interceptions. Rodgers won Super Bowl XLV MVP, stepping out of the shadow of Green Bay Packers future Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre. Packers Head Coach Mike McCarthy is the third coach of Green Bay to bring the Vince Lombardi buck “home” to where the legendary Lombardi won two championships. “The Packers proved that they are the best team in football,” says Packers fan Tyler Nehl.

Despite a powerful Steelers defense led by NFL Defensive Player of the Year Troy Polamalu and hard-hitting linebacker James Harrison, Rodgers showed that he was ready and in the first quarter completed a couple of passes to veteran receiver Donald Driver. However, drops by receivers Jordy Nelson and James Jones forced three and outs. The Steelers were not the only ones with a tough defense as the Packers’ defensive core led by pass rusher Clay Matthews and defensive backs Charles Woodson, and Nick Collins created problems for the controversial Steelers’ quarterback Ben Roethlisberger who failed to connect with his receivers. “I didn’t want Ben to win because I don’t feel that he deserves to be in the same conversation as Brady,” says Patriots fan Charles Dowd. The early positive for Pittsburgh was that they discovered that running back Rashard Mendenhall kept finding holes to run through. With the first quarter winding down, Nelson came through for his quarterback, squeezing the ball as it fell into his hands which gave the Packers a 7-0 lead after kicker Mason Crosby completed the extra point. Nelson by the end of the game led all receivers with nine catches for 140 yards.

The Steelers got deep enough for Roethlisberger to connect with Hines Ward and speedster Mike Wallace to finally get into Packers territory. The Steelers got deep enough for kicker Shaun Suisham to convert a 33-yard field goal to narrow the gap 14-3. Back on defense, the Packers capitalized on another Roethlisberger mistake when cornerback Jarrett Bush jumped the pass and ripped it out of the hands of Wallace. The turnover would haunt the Steelers as Rodgers launched a bullet to Pre Bowl receiver Greg Jennings who somehow held the ball despite a hard hit from Polamalu for a 21-3 lead. “I would never have expected the Packers to score 21 in the first half against that defense,” says Steelers fan Mike Montefusco. With less than a minute left, Ward made a great catch in the endzone to decrease the deficit to 21-10 going into half. The third quarter was quiet with the Steelers’ defense stopping Rodgers multiple times. Mendenhall continued to be the x-factor for the Steelers and was able to power his way for a TD to lessen the gap further to 21-17.

The momentum was now in the hands of the Steelers who had the ball at midfield at the start of the fourth quarter and threatening to complete a Super Bowl record comeback. Clay Matthews, who was held relatively in check for most of the game, knocked the ball out of Mendenhall’s hands and linebacker Desmond Bishop recovered it to stop the Steelers in their tracks. Rodgers damaged the Steelers’ hopes further as he then led the march down the field finding Nelson for more catches. Undrafted rookie running back James Starks finally got his feet moving forward for a couple of first downs. Rodgers found Jennings again, this time outrunning Polamalu across the endzone to make it a two-possession game 28-17. Roethlisberger took matters into his own hands and led a flawless drive, capping it with a TD pass to Wallace. The Steelers would then add a two-point conversion to narrow the score to 28-25. The Packers took a field goal possibility away from the Steelers when Crosby nailed a 23-yard field goal 31-25 with two minutes left for Roethlisberger to get into the Packers’ end zone. With one chance to finish an amazing comeback, the Packers’ defense stopped Roethlisberger on fourth down to ice the game with no time left. Congratulations to the Green Bay Packers on a hard-fought victory!
Merrimack Ups Sports Count to 22

Matthew LaMalfa, ’12
Staff Writer

There have been very few breaks in the action for the athletic department since Athletic Director Glenn Hofmann took the reins a little over a year ago. From the renovations of Lawler Arena to the addition of the men’s and women’s track program, it seems there is always something new and exciting taking place. Adding to this trend is the recent addition of two more intercollegiate teams competing for Merrimack College, Women’s Golf and Women’s Crew.

“During economic times in which many institutions and athletic departments are forced to cut sports, we are excited that we’ve developed a model that allows us to add more, said Hofmann. “The addition of these programs will provide our student athletes with the opportunity to compete at the highest level in a wide variety of sports.”

Working alongside Merrimack’s new president, Christopher Hopey, an innovative plan was developed for the growth of the department. “We have used a formula that we think works and that is to add sports, which increases the number of student athletes. While there is money and aid awarded to those new students, it will still be profitable for the college,” Hofmann remarked.

Both of these teams will begin competition in the 2011-2012 school year. With the addition of these teams, Merrimack teams will be competing in 17 out of a possible 21 sports sponsored by the Northeast 10 conference. In addition, Merrimack will now offer as many sports as any other school in the conference. The golf team will be based at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover and compete during the fall season. They will compete in the Northeast 10 conference along with the majority of Merrimack’s other teams.

Women’s Crew will be based at the Abe Bashara Boathouse in Lawrence and row on the Merrimack River.

According to Hofmann, coaches for both teams are expected to be announced shortly. As excited as he is about crew and golf, Hofmann emphasizes the need to keep an eye to the future. “You’ll see more sports added as long as it fits into the concept of being profitable for the college,” he said. “More money that is brought in is spread out over a lot of college initiatives.”

In preparation for the arrival of crew on campus, the athletic department will be running a series of crew clinics this spring for anyone interested in trying the sport. Prior experience is not necessary and no commitment is required.

More information will be released by the department in the near future.

On the Fast Track to Success

Joan Corcoran, ’13
Staff Writer

With the growth of our school comes the growth of our athletic department. Indoor Track is the newest addition to our athletic family. This sport gives the members of the Merrimack Cross Country team the opportunity to keep running throughout the whole year. Athletic Director Glenn Hofmann says the school decided to add the program because it “increases enrollment, and cross country competitiveness”.

Head Coach Matthew Pimentel comments and assures. This season “each member has improved upon their best personal times”. Not only does it benefit the cross country team, but it allows other students to take a shot at participating in a varsity sport. Freshman track runner Cara Buonicino says that “the team is really fun and the coaches are really good. They have coached track before so they know what they are talking about”. With all the enthusiasm about the new team there is still a lot of work to be done. The team is a working progress and everyone is excited to watch it grow into something bigger and better. ‘This team is hard working and is successfully climbing their way up to the top. Although there is not a track on our campus, the team is very hard working and does what they can with what they are given. Once a week they practice at Andover High School on their indoor track. When the team was added it was made very clear that a track would not be built in the near future but it seems the plans may be changing. The school is making plans to add a full track on the campus. Glenn Hofmann says that by adding indoor track “both track and cross country teams will grow from a small number of 10-14 members to much more”. He is also extremely pleased with the results of this years season.

Many members of the team have qualified for the NE-10s Championship meet. Not only have many members qualified, but the team as a whole has had more qualifying times in the long distance meet than any other school in this conference. This is a huge achievement considering that this is the first competitive season for the team. In addition to this season’s success there is already a lot of positivity surrounding next year. Coach Matthew Pimentel says due to the success of this season “we have a very strong class of some of the top runners in New England already committed for next year”. There is much more to come from this team and we are all looking forward to watching its growth continue.
Merrimack Basketball

Warriors Press On Despite Tough Stretch

Mark Lindquist, '11
Staff Writer

The 2010-2011 Merrimack Warriors led by Head Coach Bert Hammel in 31st season at the helm, have been facing a true test of basketball adversity. In a stretch of eight games dating back to January 11th, the Warriors have lost 7 of the 8 games, with only a key shooting guard Roland Davis due to injury. “Losing Roland was like a kick in the gut. When we lost him we lost his scoring, assists, and the chemistry that came with him being on the floor, along with the fact that he is just simply very tough to play against,” says Hammel.

The Warriors did salvage one win during the stretch vs New Haven winning 89-70. The Warriors struck fire shooting the ball in the first half and took a 15 point lead 49-34 into halftime, and the emotional boost carried them to the victory. Senior Darin Mency took over on the floor offensively and finished with a game-high 32 points, hitting 11 of 18 field goals and 8 rebounds. Sophomore point guard Wayne Mack was also a very important piece in the victory recording a double-double with 19 points and 10 assists and hitting five of nine from beyond the arc. With an injured Davis and a short bench, 6’4’’ freshman guard/forward Kevin Regan has seen extended playing time and a great opportunity to gain experience. “Kevin practices a ton and practices well, but game experience is the best teacher and there’s nothing like it,” says Hammel. Regan was a solid contributor against New Haven, logging 30 minutes of playing time, scoring eight points, and grabbing four rebounds. Led by Mency, who is second in the NE-10 in scoring with 21 points per game, the Warriors still pose a strong threat offensively averaging nearly 75 points a game which is fourth best in the NE-10. The Warriors are also second best in the NE-10 shooting the ball, averaging a shooting percentage just above 45% along with a second best 15 assists per game. Sophomore forward Tyler Young has had two straight double-doubles against Bentley and St. Anselm and is eighth in the NE-10 averaging just over eight rebounds a game. In years past, the Warriors have not had a consistent rebounder night in and night out and Young is now adjusting that element into the Warriors’ game. Junior power forward Aaron Strothers is a great finisher at the hoop when he gets the ball and leads the NE-10 with a 64% field goal percentage. Junior guard Wilfredo Pagan, and sophomores forward Adam Marshall, and center Juan Carlos Bosch have seen action on the floor when called upon and been able to play defensively along with contributing however they can.

The Warriors currently hold a .500 overall record 10-10 with a 6-10 record in NE-10 conference play. Despite falling to 12th place in the conference out of 16 total teams, Coach Hammel is still convinced that the season is not over yet. “Most of the middle of the conference, 5th to 12th place, is so close that a couple of wins can change everything for any team. Obviously we want to finish on a high note regardless, but our goal is still to win the NE-10 Tournament and get into the playoffs.”

Looking Forward: Lady Warriors

Robert Canella, '14
Staff Writer

With a successful season drawing to a close, the future is full of potential for the Lady Warriors basketball team.

“Last year the Lady Warriors improved to 8-8 in conference play and 10-10 overall with at win at St. Anselm’s on Feb. 5. They are now poised to surpass last year’s record of 12-17, their best since head coach Helen Williams took over before the 2006-2007 season. The team has steadily improved during Williams’ tenure, having developed from a struggling 7-21 squad to a competitor in the NE-10 Conference. Instrumental in the team’s success this season are Sarah Benischek, Tiffany Colon, Kelly Schatzlein, and Genn Roy, all of whom averaged over ten points a game.

With three of their final six regular season games on the road, where the team has struggled, junior co-captain Genn Roy said, “We have to go on a road trip and play. Personally, I have to have more confidence. It’s about knowing rather than thinking.

“We’ve shown flashes of greatness, but we need more consistency,” said Coach Williams. “We need to take better care of the basketball, cut down turnovers, and take what teams give us. We need to do more than what is there.”

The team will finish their current three-game road trip at St. Michael’s on Feb. 10 before returning to Merrimack for a three-game homestand, featuring a tough matchup against a skilled Franklin Pierce team. The Lady Warriors close out the regular at Southern New Hampshire University on Feb. 23.

Although the Lady Warriors have earned their best record in years, they will continue to set the bar high for themselves next season and beyond.

“Our goal is always eighteen wins. We will keep getting better. We need to mentally be there every day and work to make each other better,” said Roy.

“We can’t take any game for granted, and we have to play well every night. We need to get stronger with the ball. We’re in good shape right now, but we need to maintain it,” said Williams.

After this season, the Lady Warriors need to replace four seniors: Benischek, Colon, Chelsea Shea, and Taneka Brown.

“We’ll miss the seniors’ leadership on the floor,” said Williams. “They have an understanding of how I want things done, and they keep the team on task. My relationship with each senior is different, but each one of them has a special place in my heart.”

“Who doesn’t miss their seniors?” said Roy. “But new players alter the way we play, and it’s good to mix it up.”

Williams, who was recruiting coordinator at Princeton before accepting her position at Merrimack, recruited stars such as Roy and Colon for the Lady Warriors.

“We need four guards with versatile skill sets,” she said. “They need to be able to slash to the basket, but we also need players to shoot threes.”

The recent renovations to Volpe should make Merrimack a more appealing destination for talented recruits.

“Nice facilities aren’t the deciding factor, but they definitely help. You want to be able to see yourself there every day,” said Roy.

As the win column continues to improve and talented recruits continue to commit, Merrimack fans will be proud to be of future seasons.

“We’re always looking to finish higher,” said Williams. “There’s no reason we can’t get towards the higher echelon of the conference. Every team is a rival and each game is important.”
Students cheer as Merrimack defeats UVM 7-2 last Saturday.

"Photo by Heather Kent"

Ellis looks for an opening during the game against Vermont.

"Photo by Heather Kent"