Two weeks ago, on Monday April 19th, Ramunno anonymously donated stem cells to a five-year-old boy battling Leukemia. Stephen was a perfect, five out of five match for this boy.

This process for Ramunno, a health science major who is studying to become a pediatrician, began last summer when he attended a health fair at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA. Stephen talked with a nurse at the bone marrow transplant booth at the convention and decided to become a donor. He was swabbed on the spot to get the process started.

To Ramunno’s surprise, only four months after he was initially swabbed, he got a call from the Dana Faber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and was told that he was a 100% match for the boy. “I was shocked when I got the call, you hear about people being on the registry for years upon years and I was only on for a few months and was matched up” Stephen said. “Having a perfect match does translate into improved likelihood of having a cure,” said Dr Robert Soiffer, chief of the blood cancers division at DFCI. Ramunno donated through the Be The Match registry, which is a organization that links donors to people in need of donors. “We are so grateful that Stephen took the time to join the Be The Match registry and committed to donating stem cells for a patient in need. It is because of the selfless actions taken by Stephen and others, that patients in need of stem cell transplants are able to receive the critical treatment that can help save their lives,” says Cindy Albert, manager of donor services at Dana-Farber.
Spring Weekend Round-up
By Kim Trapasso

Softball Tournament is Another Spring Weekend Homerun!

This year’s softball tournament could not have fallen on a more gorgeous day. With sunny skies and a temperature around 70 degrees, both the players and spectators were able to enjoy one of America’s favorite pastimes underneath a blue, cloudless sky. Students 21 + were able to enjoy the game from the “beer garden,” which was a tent located next to the softball field, providing shade and a perfect view of the action. Students remained safe under the supervision of Student Involvement and a 6 beer per person limit. Saturday’s softball game festivities also included a delicious BBQ prepared by Sodexo, and refreshing Italian ice. Ten teams participated in the tournament, and all of them sported originally made jerseys with clever team names. The tournament began at 10 AM and continued throughout the afternoon into early evening, when team “Ruck Fes Life” beat team “One and D” in the championship.

Res Life’s Carnival kicks off Spring Weekend early on Friday evening.

With the Spring Weekend spirit already circulating in the campus air, many students felt the excitement long before the weekend even began. However, for those who had class on Friday and were unable to begin the festivities early, the Carnival was a great way to kick off Friday night. The Carnival began at 5 PM on Friday afternoon and took place in the Sakowich parking lot. The Carnival was sponsored by Res Life and included a number of fair favorites including teacups, a pirate ship, a stand serving carnival food. The Carnival even had an opportunity to pie RAs. The energy and atmosphere of the carnival was a perfect taste of summertime, reaffirming the realization that summer is quickly approaching!

Sam Adams and LMFAO “rocked the beat and rocked the show” at Lawler arena on Saturday night!

With a sold out audience consisting of 3,000 people, MPB provided Merrimack students with a successful spring weekend concert. This year’s concert turned out to be the largest MPB production in Merrimack history. With attendance numbers at about 1,000 more than the student body population, the turnout was above and beyond expectations. MPB and the concert committee dedicated a countless number of hours to planning and set-up in order to ensure that the Merrimack community had an unforgettable Spring Weekend experience. Their efforts proved to be nothing short of remarkable. Performances by both “Boston’s Boy” Sam Adams and the funky “electro-hop” group LMFAO were upbeat and exciting. Students and other concert guests enjoyed dancing, crowd surfing, and singing along to more than a dozen songs. Thank you MPB for giving Merrimack students such an amazing Spring Weekend concert!

Farewell to a Faithful Staff

The Beacon Editorial Board bids farewell to their faithful senior staff members. Graduating in the class of 2010 are Former Editor in Chief, Michael Salvucci, Former Photography Editor, Courtney Cutler, Former Layout Editor, Lauren Reilly, and Staff Writers Molly Warren, Kim Trappasso and Shannon Nickerson, Lyndsie Andrade and Feature Sports Writer, Jill Bradford.
School News

Sodexo Protest

By Michael Salvucci, ‘10 Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, on Monday, April 26, a group from Service Employees International Union (SEIU), one of the largest waiver unions in the country, held a protest right outside of campus concerning the union-ship of Sodexo’s hourly workers at Merrimack College.

The group of protesters was made up mostly of non-merrimack related persons. A few workers joined them on their lunch break but asked to remain nameless. The protesters held signs that read, “I support Sodexo workers”, “Sodexo UNFAIR”, and “Changing Sodexo, Changing Lives”. Merrimack and Andover police were on the scene and kept the protesters off campus. They were located a short ways down the side-road leading between the Sakowich Campus Center and the Halem Health Center.

Chief of Merrimack Police Services, Ronald Guilmette, said that, “the protest was peaceful and did not cause any trouble”, he continued, “they were only there a matter of hours and didn’t draw too much attention”. Monica Zimmer, Sodexo’s director of public relations, said in an interview conducted over the phone, “Sodexo is the target of a lot of misinformation on the part of SEIU. SEIU is claiming that the hourly workers at Sodexo are not being allowed to unionize and that there have been many cases of “unfair labor practices”.

There have been orange and multicolor flyers circulating around campus and in the academic buildings. The flyers, similar to some of the protest goers, made claims of “unfair labor practices” by Sodexo. Zimmer said that “the situation is unfortunate” and the “unfair labor practice claims are quite simply a smear tactic”. Sodexo has 90,000 hourly employees and they have only had 15 instances of unfair labor practices actually being filed. Of those 15, none have come from Merrimack nor have any been proven valid. The numbers,” Zimmer finished, “speak for themselves”. Sodexo is “certainly open to employees unionizing...or not unionizing”, said Zimmer. Roughly 50 percent of Sodexo’s workers are in fact unionized, most of which belong to the union “Unite Here”, a direct competitor of SEIU. According to Zimmer, Sodexo has been caught between jurisdictional in fighting between unions. Zimmer finished by saying, “we care about our employees here at Sodexo, if we didn’t, we wouldn’t be a successful company”.

Farewell to Dr. Sears

Fine Arts Department loses asset

By Courtney Cutler, ‘10 Staff Writer

Feeling a little groggy during your morning classes? Maybe you start to doze off on your desk, or begin to daylight dream about the sunny weather outdoors. For those of you who have taken a music class with Professor Sears, you know that you could never fall asleep for the fifty minutes that his class is in session.

Promptly at eight a.m., Dr. Sears will perform roll call, which is usually followed by a lively discussion on Beethoven, Mozart, or perhaps the Beatles – hands motions and boisterous piano demonstrations included. His lectures are animated dynamic – he rarely glances at notes, recalling important and interesting facts from memory. It is clear through Dr. Sears’ daily enthusiasm and energy that music is his true passion. He has taught the art and history of music at Merrimack for approximately thirty years and will be retiring at the end of the semester.

Professor Sears grew up in Annapolis, Maryland. From a young age, he was taught piano by his mother. As his passion for playing music grew, he began to write his own music and learn to play other instruments, such as the organ and recorder. Even today, Professor Sears continues to compose his own music – an impressive skill that not many people possess.

After studying music and completing his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at the Peabody Conservatory, he received his doctorate at Boston University. Sears taught at a Pennsylvania college for some time, but wanted to be back in New England where he felt at home. While working as an adjunct professor at UMass Lowell in the late 1970’s, Sears was offered a job at Merrimack by Professor Raymond, another member of the Fine Art Department, and began his career as a music professor at the school. His main passion is classical and American music, so clearly some of his favorite classes to teach are Survey of American Music and Music of the Classical Era.

For a period of time, Professor Sears served as the President of Faculty Senate, allowing him to be well acquainted with members of other departments and offices at Merrimack. He says he will miss his colleagues and the support of the Fine Arts department very much.

Although Sears is retiring from teaching music, it will still be a large part of his life. He will continue to be a church musician and a member of the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra with his wife. Sears will also pursue some of his favorite hobbies, like camping and hiking.

Being the only music professor at Merrimack, Sears has helped many students grow in their passion for music, and also opened up many doors for them. The Fine Arts Department will be awfully quiet without you, Dr. Sears. Congratulations on a great thirty years at Merrimack; you will be sorely missed!

The Beacon would like to thank all of its faithful readers this past year. Look forward to seeing improvements in the future.
By Michael Salvucci, ’10
Staff Writer

North Andover – A 17-year-old high school junior was in critical condition at a Boston hospital after falling down a flight of stairs at a party located at 599 Turnpike Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

According to police, the girl, whose name was not released, cracked her skull in the fall and was found lying outside at the base of the stairs. Police say the girl is from Southeastern Massachusetts and is in stable condition at a critical care unit at the New England Medical Center in Boston.

Four underage Merrimack College students were arrested at the scene. The students do not reside on campus. The Beacon, despite reports made by local media outlets, has decided to leave their names out of this article, out of respect to the students involved, were all charged with distributing liquor to a minor, minor in possession of alcoholic beverages, and disturbing the peace.

Registrar was found with three fake IDs in his wallet and was charged with three counts of possession of a false/stolen Registry of Motor Vehicles document.

In an email sent out college-wide at 4:39 PM on Monday, May 3, Merrimack President Ronald Champagner wrote, “The four students violated the Merrimack College Student Code of Conduct, which applies to all students, regardless of their residence on or off campus.”

“Merrimack College is cooperating fully with the investigation,” Champagner finished, “We continue to pray for the injured girl and her family, and for her rapid recovery.”

Honor Convocation

By Molly Warren, ’10
Staff Writer

This past Tuesday of April 27, Honors Convocation was held for seniors in the Collegiate Church of Christ by the Teacher at 4 o’clock. Nearly 120 seniors were recognized for their academic achievements during their time here at Merrimack. This year William Wians, a professor of Philosophy and Director of the Honors Program at Merrimack, gave the address. He began with an onomatopoeic “whoosh.” He explained that this was our senior year passing quickly by us. He then went on to explain that we were there tonight for two reasons. One reason was to recognize the quick passage of our four years at Merrimack. The second reason was to honor the special achievement of the senior class. He explained that the two reasons are related because of the time that the students gave to Merrimack has led to the honoring of them on Tuesday.

The students were each called up individually and received a certificate and Honors cords in Merrimack’s gold and blue colors to wear for graduation. Also honored at this event were those who won the Reverend John R. Ahern, O.S.A. Poetry Contest, the Rob Costello Award, the Integrity and Quality Award, and many other awards. Two additional senior awards were given out. The Allen J. Ash Senior Service Award is bestowed upon a senior who has made an outstanding contribution to the senior class. This award was given to both Sheree Morzine and Eliza Temple. The David A. Raftery, III Memorial Award was given to Andrew R. Brainthaitwai and Kelley Pasquantonio. This award is given to a senior in recognition of athletic and academic achievement, as well as leadership within the College community.

President Dr. Ronald Champagner closed the event by saying that the seniors should be proud of their accomplishments because it meant that they have succeeded while during their years at Merrimack. He went on by adding that students earn esteem, merit, respect, and dignity by attending Merrimack. “In the end, these seniors have helped fulfill the college mission.”

L.E.A.D. Awards honor students

By Molly Warren, ’10
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 27, the Merrimack College L.E.A.D. Awards were held. This event is held in order to “celebrate Merrimack’s finest.” This year’s L.E.A.D. Awards were different than past years, for its style has changed. This year’s L.E.A.D. Awards were held in the Rogers Center rather than its previous location of Cascia Hall.

Many members of the staff and the administration presented the various awards. Along with the new style of the awards ceremony, there were also several new awards given out. One of these awards included the Student Government Association Award given to Ara Saranjian and several intramural sports and club sports award.

Three senior awards were given out at the L.E.A.D. Awards. These awards included the William J. Murray, O.S.A. Medal, the Joseph P. Daley Award, and the Travis G. Kong Student Leadership Award. The William J. Murray Medal is given to a senior who is a role model for others and emulate the lifestyle of Father Murray’s, especially his open-mindedness, his compassion for others, and his conscience attempts at social and spiritual growth.

This year’s award was given to Brian Casey and Rebecca Provost. The Joseph P. Daley Award is given to students in recognition of outstanding character and unheralded service to the Merrimack community. Maryann Clement and Molly Wiseman received this award.

The final senior award was the Travis G. Kong Student Leadership Award. This award was set up this year by the senior class in honor of Travis Kong, a fellow senior who passed away his sophomore year here at Merrimack. The award is given to students in recognition of outstanding service to the Merrimack College community and was given to John Maggs, Jes Morris, Meredith Prior, Alyssa Wollman, and Brian Cairo. On the stage handing out the awards was Travis’ mom and at the end of the ceremony, the senior class presented her with a plaque in recognition of the award in her son’s honor.

Below is a complete list of recipients of Merrimack’s L.E.A.D. Awards for 2010:

Shining Star Award for Most Improved Club/Organization: Class Council 2011
Merrimack College Social Awareness Award: OnStagers for RENT
T.E.A.M. Award for Best Collaborative Effort: Club Bio and Green Team for Blue, Gold, and Green Week
Most Dedicated Commuter Award: Nick Laham
Blue and Gold Multicultural Award: Yanil Rojas
Unsung Hero Award: Yesika Bravo and Christina Petrucci
Advisor of the Year Award: Donna Swartwout for the Pep Band
Intramural Team Spirit Award: Channel 4 News Team
Intramural Participant of the Year: Doug Naffah
Club Sports Team of the Year: Women’s Rugby
Outstanding Leader Award 2011: Timmy Smith
Outstanding Leader Award 2012: Amanda Cremone
Outstanding Leader Award 2013: Pat Lawlor
Gladys and Anthony Sakowich Campus Center Award: Class of 2010 and MPB for Felix Brown Concert
Program of the Year: LMFAO featuring Sam Adams Spring Concert
Organization of the Year: Ultimate Frisbee Team
**Ramunno spreads Health**

Continued from cover

Ramunno ended up donating stem cells as opposed to marrow but the processes are equally rigorous. To prepare for the donation Ramunno had to frequent the DFCI for blood drawing, EKG's, chest x-rays, and physical exams. Ramunno also had to keep himself in good, physical condition throughout the entire process, which included leading a completely healthy lifestyle. Stephen said the worst part was giving himself injections in the days leading up to the donation. The night before the donation Stephen stayed at a hotel in Boston where he could rest and prepare for the events of the next day. Although he did not compete in the Boston Marathon that day, Ramunno said “that day was marathon for me.” However, he also said “If I had the chance, I would do it again.” The donation is now complete and only time will tell if it was successful. If both parties agree to it, after one year Stephen will be able to meet with the boy that he gave so much hope to. Ramunno, who is going to be a RA on campus next year, hopes to bring more awareness about donating by possibly bringing the Be The Match registry to campus to encourage more students to donate.

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**Concert rocks Volpe**

Continued from cover

“I have worked in concert venues, and have had experience in the field, but I have never been in the kind of role that this concert brought,” Nick Lowery commented. “It was a great experience to work with the students and bring such a great concert to Merrimack,” he added.

When LMFAO came onto the stage, the energy from the students, provided by the opening act of Sam Adams, reflected through the performers as they bounced around the stage. Comical comments went out to specific students, including one to a girl in a striped shirt who looked like the lead singer’s ex-girlfriend.

The concert took days to set up and the efforts of the concert committee are greatly appreciated by all who attended the concert.

“I’ve been up since 7:30 this morning and it was all worth it” exclaimed Furrier on the night of the concert.

Can MPB top this year’s concert next year? Stay tuned with The Beacon in the fall to find out more about Spring Weekend 2011.

See Collage on Pages 6 and 7

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**Dave Foreman: An RA to Admire**

By Patrick Lawlor ’13

Associate Editor in Chief

While Merrimack is filled with Resident Advisors who do a tremendous job with their programming and duties, one stands out among others: Dave Foreman. Foreman has been an RA for two years, currently an advisor in the apartments, Foreman will also be in the apartments next year as the Senior Resident Advisor.

Foreman hails from Melrose, MA and is a junior with Biology major. Foreman is also a member of the Biology Club, Benzene Ring. Foreman sponsors some of the best programs, the Amazing Race, a popular Spring Weekend event, and “Drunk Driving is Bad,” also a popular event. “My favorite program that I have done was Around the World,” Foreman said.

“All of the apartments I advise were given a country and had to cook food that was representative of that country,” Foreman added. His events are often those that bring awareness, but are also fun and entertaining. I took part in his drunk driving simulation. This program required the participant to put on “drunk goggles” and drive the golf cart around a square by Santagati Hall. This was definitely an eye opener to anyone who participated about the dangers about drinking and driving. “I would really like to thank Jim Matthews and Lt. Murphy for getting the golf cart for me, they were a big help,” said Foreman.

Foreman, along with other Resident Advisors Jerry Smith (Ash), and Kyle Neary (Monican) ran the Amazing Race. They set up all of the events throughout campus, designed the routes, organized teams, and appropriated money for great prizes, and gave out free t-shirts to all of the teams. The Amazing Race was a blast; an additional activity I had participated in. There were about 20 co-ed teams, all competing around campus to make it into the top 8 in order to advance to the finals. My partner was junior Ashley Bock, and I want to take this time to thank her for being a great teammate.

“Dave does a phenomenal job with his programs,” said Donna Swartout, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life. According to Swartout, RAs must run two programs a month, one educational and one entertaining.

Needless to say, Merrimack’s Residence Advisors are all special, hardworking members of Residence Life. However, Foreman’s awareness to societal issues and diligence to work so that others have fun, cannot go unrecognized.

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You can join us at The Beacon and get FOUR college credits for it, starting Fall, 2010.

Sign up for COM 3452 Newspaper/News Media Production

(Note: Faculty Consent required. Contact Dr. Burns at BurnsD@Merrimack.edu for more information)
Sammy Adams

All photos by Ashley Sarris and Patrick Lawlor
WEEKEND

LMFAO
Let’s face it, as much as members of the Merrimack Community try to express it is, Merrimack College is not so diverse. In recent conversations with different departments and committees on campus, diversity, and lack thereof has been a pressing issue. “Merrimack needs to be more diverse,” seems to be an overarching theme.

What better to start with than our own staff at The Beacon. Merrimack College’s student run newspaper parallels the rest of the institution that embodies it. We are the antonym of diversity. On our staff of roughly 15 members, every member is white. The majority of the group is middle class or something right around there. They come from parents who work. Women make up most of the staff of roughly 80% here at The Beacon.

Three out of four members of the editorial board are women. Three out of four members of the editorial board run both Cross Country and Track.

But what does all this mean when publishing a newspaper? There are ways in which having this type of staff is beneficial. A strong core group of people with the same ideas, working together can be easy when getting things done. But let’s be serious, is this what a publication really wants?

There are ways in which having this type of staff is beneficial. A strong core group of people with the same ideas, working together can be easy when getting things done. But let’s be serious, is this what a publication really wants? At three in the morning on a Wednesday night/Thursday morning trying to fill a paper; perhaps, but in the broad view, this is not what a paper wants. Take a look at some recent Beacons. Where is the diversity? The truth is there isn’t any.

Why don’t we have diversity? Well the truth is, we don’t know. Anyone can write for The Beacon, we accept anything, so why don’t people sign up? Why are there no Latino, African American, or Asian writers? Well, this question may never be answered. The Beacon, which is understaffed to begin with, is in no position to deny writers. All of the people that come to The Beacon to write, or photograph are part of the majority. As a newspaper, we don’t have the funding, time, or capability to go out and recruit a member of the minority to come and write for us. We are not a selective organization, or one that focuses on recruiting for that matter.

We call for diversity among The Beacon because that’s what we need, that’s what a strong newspaper needs. Different views, methods of expression, varying backgrounds all make up what is imperative in publishing a paper. So consider this Merrimack, The Beacons cry for diversity.

- The Editorial Board

Questions on the Quad

SENIOR EDITION

By Patrick Lawlor

The Beacon would like to wish the graduating class of 2010 the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

What are your plans for after graduation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Grad School</th>
<th>Passing the CPA Exam</th>
<th>Living life until I start working</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Mia Basile</td>
<td>-Elizabeth Temple</td>
<td>-Matt Stumpf</td>
<td>-Jes Morris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is your best memory from Merrimack?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Playing lacrosse</th>
<th>Having an amazing Spring Weekend Concert</th>
<th>The Dancing with the Stars event</th>
<th>Living with Liz Temple over the summer!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Madelana Basile</td>
<td>-Alyssa Wollman</td>
<td>-Melissa Cruz</td>
<td>-Hannah Riley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Police Log

On April 17, 2010 at 01:07, Deegan RA reported a suspicious odor on the 3rd floor of Deegan East. Police were dispatched to investigate and the AC responded as well. Units reported that the resident allowed the AC and themselves to enter. No evidence of contraband was found, however, the smell of marijuana did exist. Resident and his registered guest were present. Residence Life will be investigating. Units cleared.

On April 21, 2010 at 00:42, Officer reported being out with two males in Lot 8. Lieutenant and officer were on scene. 21 beers were confiscated along with marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

On April 23, 2010 at 01:45, Lieutenant and officer reported a small group of suspicious males behind Ash by the woods. The individuals ran at first but all were caught up with. They did not have anything incriminating on them and were told to call it a night. Units cleared.

On April 24, 2010 at 01:00, Sergeant reported all units will be out at the apartments dispersing approximately 500-600 people. Sergeant reported that a few glass bottles were thrown at Car 2 during the dispersal, no visible damage.

On April 24, 2010 at 11:22, police had addressed students in the Deegan West lot that are tailgating with open containers. All have moved along.

On April 24, 2010 at 18:57, Sergeant reported that he will be responding to a disturbance at the Cafeteria. All units responded. Unit reported that an individual had been throwing dishes but had left upon arrival. Units cleared.

On April 24, 2010 at 20:43, a professor called to report that someone had “trashed” the first floor Men’s bathroom in Mendel. Police was dispatched to investigate. Unit reported that there was no monetary damage. Units cleared.

On April 25, 2010 at 21:30, Area Coordinator from Residence Life called requesting assistance from Police Services in putting out a campfire outside behind the St. Thomas Community Room. Officer was dispatched. Unit reported that the fire had been put out and 76...
O’Rourke’s 16 Ks Send AIC Packing

By Mark Lindquist, ’11
Staff Writer

Against AIC, Merrimack senior left-handed
6’3”, 215-pound pitcher Ryan O’Rourke, despite
leaving the game with a no-decision, pitched
nine awesome innings allowing only four hits,
one run and striking out sixteen batters. The
Warriors eventually won the game in extra
innings 2-1 on a walk-off RBI single from
none other than senior shortstop, Brendan Pyburn. Junior relief pitcher Keith
Johansen was credited with the victory. Jo-
hanse’s ERA in relief is 2nd best on the
team with 1.74. O’Rourke’s record is only 3-
2, but he is 4th in the NE-10 conference with a 1.50 ERA. 3rd in opposing hitting average
at .167, and 5th in Ks with 71. O’Rourke’s stellar pitching and tall left-handed stature
has gotten the attention of some MLB clubs.

In the second game against AIC, Dylan
Ellis, another senior lefty pitched lights out
for the Warriors on a complete game shutout
going nine innings, allowing five hits, and
striking out seven hitters for a 4-0 victory. Ellis’s record is only 2-4 but his ERA is very
strong at 2.24 and is a pitching work-
horse with 63 innings pitched and five
complete games. The heart of the order of

Brendan Pyburn, senior first baseman Matt
Hogan, and sophomore center Tim Curran com-
hined produced six hits and three RBIs. Pyburn
has been Merrimack’s most consistent hitter and
one of the NE-10’s best contact and disciplined
hitters. He is sixth in the NE-10 with a .336 bat-
ting average and leads the team in hits, RBIs,
and stolen bases with 42, 20, and 16, respec-
tively. Pyburn also has only struck out an as-
tounding nine times in 125 at-bats. Curran has
been a similar hitter to Pyburn, hitting .303 with
a team second best 36 hits and 15 RBIs. Hogan’s
average has declined to .263 but is still one of
the team’s best power hitters with 3 home runs and
15 RBIs. Freshman right fielder
Mark O’Flynn has also done a
solid job stepping into the lead-off
role hitting .271. Merrimack is
still in the middle of the pack with
an overall 16-15 record, an 11-12
record in conference play, and has
a shot at a playoff spot.

O’Rourke pitches against SNHU last Saturday, May 1
~Photo courtesy of Merrimack Athletics~

O’Rourke’s 16 Ks Send AIC Packing

By Jill Bradford, ’10
Staff Writer

Ask any athlete what it feels like
to pull their Merrimack jersey over
their head one final time, or to glide
over the ice once more, steal that
last base, stop that last goal, or kick
that last field goal, and most likely
they will pause for a second and
think it’s who we are. We are War-
riors. Strange? We don’t think so. W e
know so well, a lifestyle that we
have had for our entire lives. B e-
cause believe it or not, we find com-
fort in diving head first into home
plate, tackling a 240 pound. football
player to the ground, or crushing
someone against a side board. Strange? We don’t think so. We
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WARRIORS-What it means to us

By Jill Bradford, ’10
Staff Writer

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Pat Bowen: Exit Interview

By Katie O’Neil, ’10
Staff Writer

Anyone who has been to a Merrimack College Hockey game within the past few years knows who number four, Pat Bowen, is. This past season Pat was a senior co-captain for the Warriors and has been a leader on and off the ice.

Pat is from Marshfield, Massachusetts and played for a number of teams before coming to Merrimack. He played for Marshfield High School then transferred to Pomfret School, a prep school in Connecticut. During his senior year he left Pomfret and played for a USHL hockey team in Chicago while finishing his studies. After graduating, he took a year off before going to college and played for the New Hampshire Junior Monarchs in Manchester, Massachusetts. Pat chose to come to Merrimack because Coach Dennehy made him feel like a part of the hockey family the second he set foot on campus during recruiting season. No other coach made him feel quite as welcome as Coach Dennehy did. Another contributing factor was that his father played hockey for the Warriors, graduating in 1977. Upon coming to Merrimack Pat declared himself as a political science major. Upon graduation this spring, Pat plans to continue his hockey career before venturing out into the work force.

I made sure to ask Pat about his day to day schedule. With workouts, games and practices on top of school and homework, I wonder how the team does it all. Pat told me that “hctic” is the perfect word to describe his schedule. On a typical game day, he would wake up around 8 or 9 AM and then head over for breakfast with the team. After getting out of class around 11 AM, he would go over to Volpe for either a bike ride or a pre-game skate. Next he would go for lunch with the team and then take a nap. Pre-game team meals would take place at 3 so Pat had to be awake for that, as that was where much of the team bonding and strategizing would take place. After the meal, Pat would head back to his apartment to get ready for the game and do some schoolwork. He had to be back at the rink by 5. He said that this schedule may seem like an overload to most people but after four years, it had become routine and enjoyable.

This season was the Warriors best season since joining Hockey East, and Pat and his five fellow seniors saw some bad seasons along the way. Throughout Pat’s whole freshman season, the Warriors only won three games. They improved slowly over the next two years but this past season the team really exploded. Pat said that this incredibly successful year definitely made those tough few years worth it. Pat said that the class of 2010 came to Merrimack embracing the situation that they were in and that with the “guidance of Coach D, the coaching staff, Glenn Hoffman, Mike Kamal and the rest of the Athletics Department, there is now pride back in those jerseys.” Pat said that the team knew that their hard work and positive attitudes would eventually pay off; it was just a matter of sticking with it. The Warriors had the best home record in Hockey East this season. I spoke with Pat about what the tremendous fan support at Merrimack meant to the team. He told me that the support the team received on the ice was a huge factor for them. Pat said that hit mentality.” Pat said that that hit home with a lot of the players. They started growing “playoff beards” in order to get into that mindset and took every game as if it were a part of a playoff series. There was no turning back from there. The Warriors went on to win four and tie one of their last seven games of the season.

A huge contributing factor to the Warriors success this year was NCAA Rookie of the Year, Stephane Da Costa. I asked Pat what it was like to play with Da Costa and if it made the rest of the team step up their game a bit. Pat said that “Steph is a special player. Not only does he have amazing talent, but he has the work ethic and drive that is going to take him very far in the game of hockey. He would stay out after practice to work on certain things, and when he wasn’t in the rink, he was watching hockey clips on his computer. He has amazing vision on the ice, and can obviously finish. I think a lot of guys learned a lot from him, and vice versa.”

The Warriors clinched a 6th seed playoff berth in Hockey East. I asked Pat about what the celebration was like in the locker room after clinching. He said that getting to the playoffs was only one of many goals that the team had but that it was definitely a great feeling. He said that it is safe to say that his favorite spring break out of his four years at Merrimack was the one spent at school, gearing up for the Quarterfinals against BU.

Although the standings in Hockey East can attest to the fact that the teams are very equal, with playoff contenders being separated by just a few points, Merrimack has not received the respect that teams like BU and BC have gotten. I asked Pat if he thinks that this season and playoff run would get Merrimack the respect it rightfully deserves. Pat told me that “the foundation is in place at Merrimack, and I know for a fact that Chris Barton, Adam Ross and Karl Stnillery will not let the team take a step backward. Every single one of the returning players can still feel that sting that was present after the game 3 loss at BU. It will be a piece of motivation that will be passed on to the incoming freshman, as Merrimack will look to have home ice for the playoffs, and make their charge to the Garden.”

At the end of Game 3 of the Quarterfinals, when it was clear that Merrimack’s season was coming to an end, Coach Dennehy pulled everyone on the ice and put in his seniors. There was no time to pull and switch goaltenders, to put in senior goalie Andrew Braithwaite but other than that every senior was on the ice. Pat and Brandon Sadowski were the defensemen, and Pat Kimball, JC Robitaille, and Justin Bonitatibus were the forwards. I asked Pat what that gesture meant to him. Pat said that “to be honest, it was pretty tough to hold it together when we were all on the ice. The blood, sweat and tears shed by each of my fellow teammates over the past four years will never be forgotten. We are an extremely tight group, and everyone is going to miss each other.”

Merrimack Head Coach Mark Dennehy ended up winning Hockey East Coach of the Year for the 2009-2010 season. Pat said that he could not have been happier for Coach D and that he definitely deserved the award. Pat said that Coach is “the one responsible for putting all these pieces together and no one has invested more than he has.”

Pat said that his advice for next year’s team is to keep working hard and playing with pride and passion. He is excited to see next year’s team take things to a whole new level and will come to games whenever possible. Pat closed our interview by saying that he would like to thank everyone who supported him and offered him guidance along the way. “These last four years have been very special and I will never forget them,” Pat, we won’t forget you either.

Pat Bowen on the ice during one of his last games. ~Photo courtesy of Merrimack Athletics~
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Champagne in The Blue Line Club with Sam Adams. The Beacon bids farewell to President Champagne and wishes him well in his future. Thank you for your years of service!