More On The Menu

Nicole Meaney ’13
Staff Writer

Following Merrimack’s recent theme of change and advancement, the dining services have incorporated new aspects in their food preparation that offer students more variety, and the ability to make healthy choices. These changes are a result of a guest satisfaction survey in which dining guests voiced their opinions.

Currently, Merrimack has three on-campus dining options for students: Sparky’s Place, The Warriors Den, and ZezZebis. Each one has been designed with the student in mind. After hearing student suggestions, Merrimack Dining is now implementing those ideas to “Make it your Merrimack.”

Beginning with Sparky’s Place, the restaurant is now open an extra half hour, until 8 p.m. This will give various students the chance to catch a late dinner after sport practice, or enjoy the soft serve ice cream machine. Alex Culvera ’13 expressed his approval on Merrimack Dining’s Facebook page, “Loving the fact that Sparky’s is open til 8.” At lunch and dinner, a new menu item this semester is the Wok World, a stir-fry station.

Students have the option to choose which vegetables they want, chicken or tofu (with daily specials sometimes being featured), and a choice of sauce including teriyaki and peanut. The stir fry menu addition offers students the ability to customize their meals.

Adjacent to Wok World are beverages and hot coffee. The newest offering here is iced coffee.

In the center of Sparky’s Place is the Hydration Station, where there is water with fruit in it, as well as fresh fruit options. Michael Newmark, the See DINING
Continued on Page 5

College Seeks New AD

Evan Mercier ’14
Staff Writer

Following the investigation and subsequent resignation of former Athletic Director Glenn Hofmann in late August, Senior Associate Athletic Director Dean O’Keefe has held the top post in the Athletic Department as interim athletic director. Now ready to fill the position permanently, the college has posted on its Employment Opportunities website the position of Director of Athletics.

The Athletic Department, which in the last year has added many teams such as track, swimming, golf, crew and women’s hockey, is aspiring to make moves to Division I.

The department, which has faced an investigation of its former athletic director, was also investigated by the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights for Title IX infractions. Title IX provides and protects gender equality. Following the investigation, the college has increased funding and programs for female athletes.

According to Merrimack, the new Athletic Director will report to the vice president of administration. Alexa Abowitz, the college’s chief attorney, also serves as the vice president of administration. She oversees athletics, physical plant, police services, and many other administrative services departments.

The position description calls for a candidate who “will be responsible for fundraising, building a culture of respect, transparency, and cooperation, and providing guidance and direction for the College’s athletics programs.”

Among specific responsibilities for the position are developing and executing a strategic plan for conference re-alignment and a move to Division I. “This is a big time for Merrimack Athletics so we need a candidate whose goals and leadership style will help the department get to that next level,” said Katie Ganser, president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council.

Dorms Rising Quickly

Molly Canyes ’15
Staff Writer

Ever since the students of Merrimack College got back from winter break, the construction has made some real headway. Instead of a giant hole with poles coming out of the ground, you start to see what will soon be the new residence halls.

As you walk by the construction you can start to see that some of the rooms already have windows installed, not to mention that one closest to the Hamel Health Center already has a fully installed roof. It’s amazing how much construction can be accomplished in month.

Sara Hicks, the director of residence life, was able to discuss what the residents can expect. According to Hicks, “the new residential spaces will be a combination of four- to six-person suites. Each suite will have a common room and a bathroom.” Hicks mentioned that there will be three large community rooms within the five buildings where students can relax, do homework, or host club and organization meetings. In addition to the community rooms the residence halls will also include three laundry rooms and an office for the resident director.

The campus has been buzzing about the new residence halls and students cannot wait to see the finished project. During the past week there have been furniture displays from different vendors set up in the Den. More than 150 people tested the furniture on the first day. After checking out the furniture they were able to vote for their favorite and give feedback on iPads borrowed from the library.

A few students were able to give some feedback on the construction and a majority of them said that they look forward to living in the new residence halls.

Raily Henriquez makes the most of the new offerings. Photo by Alex Moos
Questions on the Quad

By Agata Adamczuk ’13
What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?

Drew Ferraro ’13
“I will be partying with Cupid”

Michelle Barrett ’15
“I will be hanging out with my girlfriends”

Margaret Jacques and Mike Laracy ’13
“We will be on a study date”

Police Log

Jan 22
Commuter student called to report she has been driving around for over an hour and cannot find a parking spot. Cameras were looked at and she was informed there are available spaces in the Church Lot. Student was upset and wanted to know why the construction workers were able to take up a whole lot (Deegan West lot) and the students that pay need to hike to get to class.

Jan 23
Massachusetts State Police dispatcher called into Police Services to report they had a person on Merrimack Campus reporting a person unconscious in the road by Volpe. Officer reports a female student has been located that is in and out of consciousness with a pulse. North Andover Fire Department has been updated. North Andover Fire cleared the scene after medical refusal.

Jan 24
Area Coordinator called to report a suspicious odor on the first floor west wing of Monicam Centre. Officer was dispatched to investigate. Marijuana paraphernalia confiscated.

Jan 25
Police Services received a report of a fight in C Tower. Officers were dispatched. Area Coordinator was notified. Officers spoke with residents of C second floor. No issues. Units clear.

Jan 26
Student called requesting an alcohol assessment for another student. Officers were dispatched to assist. Officer requests Andover Fire Department for an intoxicated 18 year old female who is semi-conscious. Officer reports that the student will be transported to Lawrence General Hospital.

Jan 27
Police services received a 911 call from the Sakowich Campus Center in regards to a female student falling down and hitting her head in the Warrior’s Den. Officers report student has been transported to Lawrence General Hospital.

Jan 28
A nurse from Hamel Health called requesting an ambulance for student reportedly having chest pains since yesterday and shortness of breath. Andover Fire Department was contacted and are on route. Student was transported to Lawrence General Hospital.

Jan 31
Town House Resident Advisor called to report a suspicious odor emanating from Salem Town House 1st floor. Unit reports confiscated drug paraphernalia and marijuana from student.

Feb 1
Merrimack College Police Services received a noise complaint in Deegan East. Responding unit reports confiscating alcohol and a fake ID.

Feb 3
Resident Advisor for Deegan East called for Officer for a group of male students vandalizing the third floor. Unit reports no students located but there was a hole punched in the wall.

Mack Tweets

@SIFerg
If snows as much as its supposed to fall outside party in quads that night

@spang12
You think Apple would have made longer iPhone chargers by now

@throncs
Free chicken soup from Zebis may just be the most clutch thing known to mankind

@ColinFlannery1
When you go to sparkys and there’s no food. You have one job

@alijs3059
enough with the graduation emails merrimack relaxxx #letmewellmylife

@JennaWhooley
First class of the day I walk in to find 2 pennies heads up on my seat. #LuckyDay? #AndiHaveMyPants

@RealGingerAle
so MC beats UNH again so how may times do we have to beat them for them to move down in the ranks? #gowarriors

#UNHockey
Final in Durham: #Merrimack 4 #UNH 1

#MichelleZuk21
Sitting next to the fire ad studying. #Warm #Merrimack

#LEEERRRRRR
The burn means its working #MCFootball
Celebrating Beliefs
Jillian Toce ’13
News Editor

The Feast of Faiths on Feb. 6 in the Rogers Center was a dialogue dinner facilitated by graduate fellows and undergraduate students. Joseph Kelley, director of the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations and dean of experiential learning, welcomed attendees by asking how many people there are in the world, and the audience responded by saying, “Seven billion.” Kelley then said, “Out of the seven billion, there are six billion individuals who practice a religion.”

This event was hosted by the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations with the intention of celebrating the acceptance of religious diversity that is practiced at Merrimack College. Kelley told the audience, “If you’re a believer, we want you to believe and cherish your faith.” It is important to honor those who are different, whether it is a difference of religion, race, or sexuality.

The Feast of Faiths included a student reflection by Anna Ndambra ’14. Fr. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A. shared a unique blessing before dinner that included a story about his father. Each individual who came to the event was placed randomly at a table and the facilitators led conversations about interfaith and intercultural topics. After dinner and the table conversations, Professor Mark Allman, led a recap of each table’s discussions. Allman said, “This is what it means to be Catholic.” He said this in reference to interfaith dialogue as a whole and accepting the differences of individuals in this world. Students were then given the opportunity to do a written reflection at the end of the event.

A special thank you was given to Kathy Vaillancourt, who was described as “the heart and soul” of an event such as the Feast of Faiths. Vaillancourt serves the college as assistant director of experiential learning. The Jewish, Christian, Muslim Relations minor is the only such program in any college institution in the world. If you are interested in learning more about the minor, contact Allman at allmann@merrimack.edu.

Seniors Eye Host of Events
Alicia Unis ’13
Staff Writer

As our e-mail becomes filled with messages of senior portraits and graduation necessities, the senior class looks with a grimace into our final semester at Merrimack. Though we may be leaving soon, the Senior Class Council is determined to give us a semester worth remembering, and these upcoming events suggest that they will do just that.

Senior Council President Alex Cylvera teased with hints of more as he directly addresses the very mysterious subtext of these senior events emails. “While most people have heard that there will be beer at these events, there is much more to these gatherings than just that,” Cylvera confirmed.

What is this more, you ask? The Senior Class Council has put together a “Seniors Events Pack-age” that includes the celebrating of 100 Days until graduation, a Senior Forum ticket and an all-access pass to Senior Week shenanigans.

According to Cylvera, tonight’s 100 Days celebration will “officially kick off the home stretch for the seniors” and begin the many exciting festivities he and the council have been working hard all year to plan. Starting the senior finale with flare, tonight’s party is Marsh Grass-themed, and boasts a DJ, lightshow, photobooth, cash bar and more.

Other events to come are the Post-Game Party that features a live band and during which Merrimack Programming Board will announce the performer for the Spring Concert, the Senior Formal held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston and the endless entertainment of the many Senior Send-off activities of senior week. These activities include, but are not limited to, a Boston Harbor boat cruise, Field Day, a trip to Mohegan Sun, and a BBQ with faculty and staff.

With all of this promise of fun, and of beer, the Senior Class Council has indeed created a final semester unlike any other. In the words of the president, “It’s the hope of the Class Council that the seniors come away from these events with more of a feeling of camaraderie and fond memories of their time at Merrimack.” And with events like these, we’ll be able to hear SGA President A.J. Andreucci’s hoarse yet piercing yells in our memories for a long time to come.

Campus Ministry Offers Welcome
Jillian Toce ’13
News Editor

On Jan. 30, Campus Ministry held its annual welcome back party. This year the Campus Ministry Council proposed the idea of holding the event in Augie’s Pub. Approximately 75 to 100 students stopped in to check out the party.

Brian Sues-Vassel, assistant director of Campus Ministry, said, “The Campus Ministry Council wanted to have it (the party) in Augie’s and since it was their idea, we wanted to do our best to make it happen since they know what students want.”

Sara Duplessis, a senior and a member of the Campus Ministry Council stated, “Students of all ages were welcomed, which was intriguing for students who are not 21 and had the opportunity to check out an event in Augie’s Pub. It was informational, but yet such a laid back, fun, social setting where people could ask a few questions or hang out for a few hours.”

Follow senior Will McIntyre said, “The Campus Ministry Party at Augie’s Pub was a great chance for the Merrimack community to learn more about all the opportunities that Campus Ministry provides. It was a great time had by all, between the food, drinks, raffles and information provided by the Campus Ministry staff and Campus Ministry Committee. I really hope that the Campus Ministry party becomes an annual tradition (at Augie’s) as this year was a complete success that allowed the Merrimack community to see that Campus Ministry is one of the most important parts of who we are as Augustinians.”

Students who attended the event had the opportunity to learn more about what the Campus Ministry Office offers for students. This included learning about the weekly service opportunities through MerrimAction, Alternative Spring Break, and about Mass that is held on Sundays in Austin Hall. A new aspect of Campus Ministry is the grief support group called TALL that has been created with the help of Hamel Health to help students deal with grief on campus. At the party there was also information about the Haiti service learning initiative.

If you are interested in joining the Campus Ministry Council, or want to learn more about other opportunities provided by Campus Ministry, contact Sues-Vassel at suesvasselb@merrimack.edu or at the Campus Ministry Office.
Adminstrator Joins Hamel
Sarah Buckwald ’14
Staff Writer

The Merrimack community has welcomed Diane Griesbach, who recently joined Hamel Health Center. Griesbach has taken on two roles at the Health Center, one of which is a nurse practitioner and the other assistant director of health services.

After 25 years in the health field, Griesbach said she is excited to take on these new positions.

Griesbach knew from a young age she wanted to fulfill her dream of working in the health field as a nurse. After graduating from Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and completing her adult nurse practitioner degree, she gained expertise in caring for adolescents and young adults. She was also trained to treat major illnesses as well as sports injuries, while promoting health and wellness.

After only two weeks at Hamel Health, Griesbach is enjoying getting to know the students, faculty, and the community. As a nurse practitioner, she conducts evaluations and care for illnesses and injuries. She is able to issue prescriptions and make referrals to specialists for students.

She encourages students to come to Hamel Health if they are not feeling well. The center is open Monday through Friday, 9 until 5 p.m.

Hamel Health plans on extending its hours to students. This change will allow students more flexibility to fit appointments into their schedules.

Griesbach plans to keep developing Hamel Health to meet student needs as well as become a more consumer-friendly environment.

Griesbach wants to spread health awareness to students and athletes on campus by better understanding the community’s lifestyle and culture.

Another goal she strives to achieve is to conduct wellness programs with the RA’s. This program will help endorse and promote the wellbeing of the student body.

11 Named to French Society

Eleven Merrimack students were inducted into the school’s first-ever Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society in December.

Julie Binney, Jacklyn Caruso, Catherine DeWynaert, Mariah Farbo, Jaimee Fernald, Joshua Goulet, Patrick Maguet, Tamara O’Donnell, Hayley Richards, Brittany Walsh, and Tiffany Yee were welcomed into the honor society, and Dominique Biliato and Rebekah Potet were admitted as honorary members.

Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D., of Canisius College, the northeast vice president of Pi Delta Phi, presided over the installation ceremony, which included French poetry, French songs, and a slide presentation.

Merrimack is the newest chapter of Pi Delta Phi, which is in 365 other private and public colleges and universities in the United States, and has two representative chapters at the American Universities in Paris and Aix-en-Provence, France.

The Merrimack Chapter faculty moderator is Dr. Sylvie Pressman, associate professor of French.

Pi Delta Phi was founded in 1906 at the University of California, Berkeley, and admitted to the Association of College Honor Societies in 1967.

To be admitted, Pi Delta Phi members must have completed at least one course in upper-level French and maintain a GPA of 3.0 in the subject, 3.0 overall, and rank in the top third of their class.

Honorary members can include faculty members, students who fall short of full membership requirements, alumni who did not join while still in college, and diplomats, community and business leaders who have shown support for the French language and culture.

Union Bids for MC Jobs

The recent construction on campus has gained momentum, advancing Merrimack’s master plan as the college outlines growth for the next 20 years. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has requested Merrimack hire a union electrical contractor to perform the work on the current residence project and Volpe Expansion as well as any work the college decides to contract for the next 20 years.

According to college officials, only one electrical contractor chartered with Local 103 of the IBEW bid to work on the project. That one bid was considerably higher than any non-union bids the college received, and a deal could not be met with the company, according to the President’s Office.

In a letter from Local 103 Business Agent Louis J. Antonellis to President Christopher Hopey, Antonellis said the college should expect to see banners, sign trucks, websites, iPhone apps, Facebook pages, Twitter feeds and billboards sent out to guide counselors, college ranking services, and parent-teacher organizations.

Local 103 has already created a website, Merrimack Crime Exposed, that makes claims that Merrimack has a crime problem, and parents should think twice about sending their children there. The same organization has also started a Facebook page under the same name.

The college responded to Antonellis’s letter in October.

“We believe we did everything we could to provide the opportunity to an IBEW Local 103 contractor while balancing the needs of the college community,” wrote Felipe Schwarz, assistant vice president of external affairs, the President’s Office overseer of the master plan.

“At this point in the planning, it is simply not viable to become signatory to the IBEW for every yet-to-be-determined project for the next ten to 20 years with the unfinished Campus Master Plan,” Schwarz wrote.

The college has repeatedly said it must act with fiscal responsibility through the master plan to avoid tuition hikes and maintain competitive with salaries for faculty and staff.

“Being a respected institution of Higher Learning you would think Merrimack College would hire contractors to the same sort of values in education and training,” Antonellis told The Beacon.

IBEW has launched several campaigns in the past that have protested the work of non-union electrical contractors. IBEW has attempted to stop construction at Anna Jaques Hospital, leading a campaign against the hospital in Newburyport.

“Based on your correspondence and your actions at places like Anna Jaques Hospital, we assume that you will move forward with your overly aggressive and unproductive tactics,” wrote Schwarz.

“Other local schools that put their money where the mouth is, are Harvard University, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern, & UMass Lowell and Boston to name just a few. They see value in education and safety and it shows in their hiring practices,” Antonellis said.

Schwarz reminded Antonellis and the union of the consequences of campaigns at Merrimack. “Merrimack College is private property and this letter shall also constitute notice to you that you and all members of your labor organization, and all others acting in concert with your labor organization, are forbidden from entering the property or buildings at Merrimack College,” Schwarz wrote.

Schwarz, in his letter to Antonellis said that he and members of his union would be considered trespassers under Massachusetts General Law 266, section 120, if they found on Merrimack’s property.
Dining Revamps Offerings

 DINING
 Continued from Page 1
 general manager of Sodexo on campus, explained that they are now trying to use more local products. The Hydration Station is the perfect place to grab a fresh piece of fruit. Another menu change is having more vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free meal options. In fact, the stir fry can be made gluten free. These items can be found at the Veggie Patch, located next to the salad, or in My Zone.

 My Zone supplies food for students who have food allergies. The area has meals that are gluten, lactose, and nut free. The salad bar, known as the Wall of Greens, has incorporated the new “Build a Better Salad Program.” This change is to ensure a good balance in choosing ingredients. Different colored salad tongs allow students to see the ingredients they should use sporadically or can use a lot of. Another new addition is the Healthy Hot Spot designed by on-site registered dietitian Erin Hickey. Each day, there are various healthy items that allow students healthy options. Some of these options are honeydew melon, cuscous, and tabouli. Adjacent to the Healthy Hot Spot is the grill where students can enjoy weekly specials as well as grilled chicken and burgers. Veggie burgers and turkey burgers can also be requested. Across from the grill is Express Start, where students can find bagels or make a peanut butter sandwich. This area now offers more variety in cream cheese flavors for student use. For those who love the pizza and pasta station, they will appreciate being able to get cooked to order pasta specialities at lunch and dinner Monday through Friday. Another popular station is the deli, where made to order sandwiches are made. The exciting new addition here is that six spreads have been added to the menu, including hummus. With student feedback affecting the positive menu changes, students will be sure to find a plethora of meal options to satisfy their palate.

 For students who do not have the time to sit and enjoy their meal, there is a service called Sparky’s Express, located in the Warriors Den.

 At Sparky’s Express, students can order their meal plan to swipe and choose their meal. The options are sandwich wraps, salads, chips, fruit, beverages, and cookies for dessert.

 Matt LaRovere satisfies his sushi craving.
 Photo by Alex Mass ’14
 Social media is also being used to advertise menu items. Each day on the Merrimack Dining Facebook page, the menu of entrees, daily pasta, and vegetarian meals is posted. The Warriors Den has taken strides to improving its variety of edible items. Commuters now have to opportunity to purchase a five meal plan with $100 in points to use at Zebi and the Warriors Den. The menu items here offer students on the go a variety of options from grill items to frozen meals students can bring to their dorms.

 New this semester is also a sushi station that has already become popular. Sushi chefs on site prepare fresh options. Don’t see your favorite type of sushi? Students can request freshly made sushi to be made with the ingredients they enjoy.

 The new changes also offer more variety for students who are looking for cereal, tropical fruit snacks, and more frozen food items.

 Coming soon to the Den will be a station called the Nutrition Nook, which will allow students the opportunity to speak with a registered dietitian. There will also be Hydration Station where, like in Sparky’s Place, students will be able to refill water bottles on the go.

 Zebi is the library café, where students and faculty go for the coffee, ice tea blended with fresh fruit in it, or for a snack break while studying. This café offers outdoor and indoor seating, where students can enjoy hot sandwiches and entrees.

 Another new addition will be a new mobile app called Topping, which will allow smart phone users to order their food ahead of time at the Den and Zebi so that it will be ready upon the person’s arrival.

 Another new change to keep an eye out for are food trucks that appear on campus. A food truck called Oxedos Street grill will be on campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow near the apartments.

 Merrimack Dining has incorporated student opinions to satisfy students needs for variety and delicious food. These positive changes are another way Merrimack Dining is making it your Merrimack.

 O’Brien Center for Student Success

 Brittany Rocheleau, a junior studying Management and Public and Professional Writing, is extremely active on campus. She is consistently occupied as a tutor for the Writing Center and as president of the Women’s rugby team.

 The list goes on. Rocheleau is in the Merrimack College Honors Program and was invited to join the honorary professional fraternity Sigma Iota Epsilon at Merrimack. “I’m also a committee member and team captain for Relay for Life. Merrimack,” she said.

 Understanding the importance of early career development, Rocheleau found some time to correspond with the O’Brien Center for Student Success. Her collaboration with the center helped her land an internship opportunity for spring 2013, after attending the Massachusetts Conference for Women in Boston in December, where she met and networked with Alexi Schlamburg, a speaker and media personality, who writes for Forbes, Huffington Post and Cosmopolitan.

 Rocheleau has thrived at Merrimack because she dives into opportunities with all her efforts. She credits professor Jane Parent for encouraging her to invite challenges both inside and outside of the classroom, and attributes her acquisition of the internship with Schlamburg to that very mentality.

 “Ultimately, speaking up is always better than staying silent...I went to the session that (Schlamburg) moderated, and walked straight up to her after. It was great to be able to connect with her in person, ask her directly about the internship, and hand her my resume. I think that initial meeting was a large reason why I landed my internship with Alexi,” Rocheleau said.

 An avid dancer, Rocheleau plans to jive her way through all sorts of opportunities in future, from becoming a published writer to climbing the corporate ladder “I want to do it all,” she said. She encourages her fellow students to do the same, saying, “Take on leadership positions, and don’t be afraid to try something new.”

 The O’Brien Center for Student Success can help you become the next success story of Merrimack by helping you find internships, co-op, full-time job opportunities and more.

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 Dining Revamps Offerings

 Climbing to the Top

 O’Brien Center for Student Success

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Valentine’s Day Tips

Pat Bradley ’14  
Staff Writer

So you’ve managed to find yourself a sweetheart to serenade on Valentine’s Day, but you haven’t got a clue where to go or what to do with them on a college campus? Well fear not fellow broke, un-original college students! Here are the top date ideas on and around campus.

Free Skate at Lawler Rink – It’s a well kept secret on campus, but Lawler Rink actually has free skate times from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Mondays and Wednesdays are purely free skate, whereas Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for stick practice (that requires a helmet and stick to attend). Valentine’s Day falls on a Thursday this year, but it might be worth checking out in case the ice is empty (which it very often is!). What could be more romantic than ice skating around a giant MC logo? The best part about it? It’s free! Just be sure to bring your own skates.

Star Gazing on the Turf Field – A personal favorite, the turf field is one of the only places on campus (or nearby, really) that on any given night you can see the stars. It gets pretty dark out there though, so be sure to bring a flashlight. However, if it’s just too cold for you …

Mendel Observatory – Okay, so this doesn’t actually help you for Valentine’s Day because the Observatory is only open Wednesday nights, but it’s still a great date idea. There’s a giant telescope at the top of Mendel that is open to the public on any clear Wednesday night after twilight. If you’re looking for something out of this world for a first date, you might just find it via the Observatory.

Picnic at Mendel Pond – Again, you’ll have to brave the cold for this to work on Valentine’s Day, but it’s romantic nonetheless. Fortunately, it’s supposed to be sunny in the high 40’s on V-day, so you may just be in luck. Even though the ice will likely be frozen over still, Mendel Pond is still a nice get away with some picnic tables and plenty of grass space to have a nice meal together. If you’re looking to add more excitement to the date, make your meal together before hand in one of the kitchens on campus (O’Brien, Deegan Fireplace Lounge, Apartments).

Go To Dinner – A classic, fail-proof option. Kind of. If this is a Valentine’s date, I’d stay away from any on-campus options. Sure, Sparky’s will undoubtedly have some cool pink cookies and wacky Valentine’s Day pizza options, but it’s not exactly a romantic setting. Instead, get off campus and check out some of the restaurants nearby like Bertucci’s (across the street), Tuscan Kitchen (just off Route 28 in Salem, NH) or Not Your Average Joe’s (at the Loop in Methuen). Feeling adventurous? Take a trip to Boston and find a nice restaurant there! On your way back, stop at Orange Leaf just down the road in Andover Center for dessert. If you don’t have a car, you can sign up for a Zipcar at www.zipcar.com/merrimack.

No matter what you do on Valentine’s Day, it’s the thought that counts and the preparation that executes. Don’t wait until last minute to get your plana together, guys! And ladies – give him an answer quickly and a hint so he knows if and what he is doing for your date! Dating in college can be hard, but it doesn’t have to be. Good luck!

DRINK OF THE WEEK
Strawberry Kiss

1 1/2 oz. Absolut Vanilla  
1/2 oz. Strawberry Liqueur  
Splash of Cran/Pineapple Juice

- Adapted by Brianna Trabucco

Note: The Beacon urges all Merrimack students to drink in a legal and responsible manner

*Reservations Required by 2/11  
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Exclusively for Students

Cupid’s Dinner Date

Whether sharing your love or celebrating friendships, join us for a memorable Valentine’s Day Dinner!

Merrimack Club  
February 13, 2013  
5pm-7pm

3-course Prix Fixe Dinner  
$15 per person*
MERRIMACK’S MOST INTERESTING PERSON

Francesco Quinci

This marks the beginning of a new feature in The Beacon, highlighting some of the college’s most interesting people. In this feature we will pay tribute to the everyday Merrimack student — great but often unrecognized.

Kamararie Joyce 15
Staff Writer

Sophomore Francesco “Frankie” Quinci is a very involved student here at Merrimack College. He is the president of the class of 2015, an orientation leader, and also a member of the Merrimack Program Board. Frankie lives in Woburn Mass., but he resides in D tower in the apartment buildings serving as an RA.

If all that weren’t enough to keep him busy, Frankie is also in the process of completing a double major in both electrical engineering and business management. With the skills learned in his courses, Frankie hopes to one day take over his father’s electrical contracting company.

Frankie is most known around campus for three things: his transportation to class, his creative Halloween costumes, and the unique attire he wears to the Warrior hockey games.

People recognize Frankie as he breezes past them on route to the academic buildings, riding his motorized scooter. If you haven’t had a chance to see Frankie in the act, the scooter is frequently spotted charging in the Sak lobby outside of Sparky’s place. Frankie bought the scooter online for around $350. After purchasing the scooter, he personally customized it to create the perfect look. Some of the alterations added to the scooter include an ignition switch, so no one is able to steal the scooter while it is left unattended to. It can charge in any electrical port, and takes about four to six hours to fully charge the machine. It must be charged every night in order to be used on a daily basis. When riding the scooter to class Frankie’s commute is decreased to about a two minute ride from his residence hall to the academic buildings.

You may also recognize this tech-savy fella from the crowd of hockey games. He is easy to spot out since he is probably the only one in attendance wearing a full monkey costume. The costume was originally purchased at a costume store in Waltham used for a Halloween event years ago. However, when his pals dared him to wear it to a hockey game, he accepted the challenge and it has since become a tradition. Frankie says his favorite player on the team is Thomas McArthur. (McArthur no. 6 is a defenseman for the Warriors)

Frankie looks forward to Halloween each year and enjoys designing costumes that include both creative and functional aspects. For the 2012 Halloween season, all replicating the use of electricity. The first was a floor lamp tucked into his back pack run by a battery pack located at the bottom of his bag. This costume included an electrical port where he was able to plug the lamp into, as well as an on and off switch connected to the light bulb. The next costume was a full fire alarm system, again run by a battery pack to display electricity. A switch was displayed on Frankie’s shirt; when this switch was pulled it set off a loud and alarming warning system. Frankie says “This is the most legal alarm you can pull on campus” The third costume was referred to as the “Walking Rave”. This costume was constructed with a neon blue light running down the length of Frankie’s shirt as well as his arm. The strip would light up to the beat of the music and around him as well as the voices to those surrounding him. This was run by the noises the microphone picked up, which he had previously programmed into the light strip. All these costumes were based on the lamp costume, which had previously been invented in the Quinci family.

Be sure to pick up the next week’s Beacon to read about the next interesting person I scope out on campus.

New Screen Technology Could Be Right Touch

James Callens
Staff Writer

Take gander at the people walking around campus. What do you see? Students, professors, and Merrimack staff all staring at some sort of touch-screen device. So, most of you know that typing with your thumbs on glass can be about as fruitful as yelling at a wall. That is, both are an exercise in frustration. And, as tech innovation climbs, touch-screen input is only going to become more pervasive. If you look at any current touch-screen device, it has a versatile user experience, but there’s no real tactile experience.

Tactus Technology is the developer of a new user interface for touch-screen devices. Imagine Saran Wrap that can instantly “grow” into bubble wrap on demand, and then have the ability to smooth back over when done. That’s the basic idea of how this new screen works.

Tactus designed a screen that easily integrates with smart phones, tablets, GPS devices, and gaming systems (and anything with a touch screen for that matter). The screen will be the same thickness as previous screens but has channels cut out in the inner layer. These channels work via micro fluids to “push” a proprietary oil up against the front overlaying panel to simulate real buttons. This new sci-fi looking haptic solution will hopefully bring back some of the much needed tactile feedback.

The new screen, which some are nick-naming “lumpy,” is completely smooth and seamless. It replaces the old flat screen, has minimal power consumption, and has customizable button layouts, shapes/sizes, and locations. The oil is application controlled and the channels can be formed into any configuration. It can even turn into a gaming control pad, for instance.

The benefits of such an interface could even extend beyond simple con-
Proposed Gun Laws Miss Mark

Roger McCormack ’14
Staff Writer
President Obama’s recent executive edicts and proposals banning “assault weapons”, firearms with magazines exceeding 10 rounds, etc., depicts the latest misguided, as well as deeply puerile and hasty, effort of the Democratic political cadre to foist supposedly meaningfully reform upon the nation. Rounding the president amid his signing of executive orders in an effort to curtail mass shootings is the latest act of callowness in Washington, with the president hosting children who had written letters to the White House demanding increased gun control (though you won’t see the president extend an invitation to children to debate the efficacy of drone strikes in the Middle East, which have left a much greater civilian body count than Newtown). The reliance on pathos for governance is incredibly suspect historically (Iraq/Afghanistan anyone?), though this event is far from an outlier, merely representing the gamut of ill thought policies and reactions following the Newtown massacre. A New York Times study from 2011 records that 6,220 people were killed with handguns and 323 persons with rifles, the latter category including the “assault weapons” the president is sur- ture of the bans, purely aggrandizing politicians’ aridency to appear benevolent. Likewise, the governor’s inclusion of increased mental health regulation in the bill is particularly fetid. This statute requires mental health professionals to report patients to the state who professionals believe will “hurt others or themselves.” This may appear to be an appropriate palliative. Despite this, doctors have reacted ad- versely to the Governor’s zeal. Dr. Paul S. Applebaum notes that such a requirement “represents a major change in the presumption of confidentiality that has been inherent in mental health treatment”, and “The prospect of being reported to the local authorities, even if they do not have weapons, may be enough to discourage patients with sui- cidal or homicidal thoughts from seeking treatment or from being honest about their impulses.”

This catalyzes, as opposed to occlud- ing and attenuating, the chance of vio- lence being wreaked on innocents. For if people who severely need help are turned off by an environment that is anything less than sacrosanct, it is not difficult to imagine the decline of mental health care in New York, perhaps inadvertently expanding mental illness. Equally, therapy obviously involves going into dark recesses of the psyche that we all share at some basic human level. Demonizing people for being forthright and trying to deal with their problems seems far from a recipe for ending spates of ghastly violence. Cou- pled with the amalgam of palpitations and ignorance that has lead the way in the vitriolic debate on gun violence, it is unsurprising that the polarized and in- fantile nature of American political life has led to dismal policymaking.

Meanwhile, the note being strident gun-control and colossal murder rates is impossible to ignore. The New York Times reports “And yet Chicago, a city with no civilian gun ranges and bans on both assault weapons and high- capacity magazines, finds itself labor- ing to stem a flood of gun violence that contributed to more than 500 homicides last year and at least 40 killings al- ready in 2013, including a fatal shoot- ing of a 15-year-old girl on Tuesday.”. Coupled with nary a chance for a re- sponsible citizen to purchase a gun, the Chicago ruling class also seeks to ac- crete to an already overarching bureau- cracy in an attempt to remedy what is an obvious failure. Analogous situa- tions are found in Detroit, a vanguard of stringent gun-control laws. The ab- surd unguents aside, the ease with

Opinion

Continued on Page 10
Transparency? Show Me the Money

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Editor in Chief

The latest trend in government, corporate organizations and administra-
tions is transparency. Those who are in charge want their stake-
holders and constituencies to have faith in their leadership, to know they are working in their best interest. In the government, transparency is part of the job.

Transparency is how we know our elected and appointed officials are working in our best interest; it is how we hold leaders accountable. The government by law must provide reports on spending, salaries and government processes. That’s why we have the Freedom of Information Act, and public meeting laws. All of this is part of the checks and balances of our government.

Transparency has become more important as a value in America; we hear about it in the media almost every day.

In the wake of the financial meltdown, there was some regulation and even greater social and media pressure for private financial institutions to be transparent.

As society and government begin to turn their attention to the costs of higher education, we believe there will soon be similar cries for transparency in higher education.

Merrimack has its own ugly past of financial mismanagement, making our community more sensitive to the issue of transparency. In 2008, President Richard T. Santagati was paid over $700,000 in compensation, placing him among the highest in the nation, a salary that caught national scrutiny as well as scrutiny on campus.

Merrimack also faced a federal investigation that probes the management of millions of dollars of Perkins loan funds. Under President Santagati, many financial and personnel decisions were made that still affect us today.

The early days of President Christopher Hoype’s administration were spent cleaning up a mess left behind by the secret maneuvering of previous administrations. We don’t have any reason to believe those bad decisions are being repeated, but we base our faith in current leadership, not in our full knowledge of what is actually going on.

Therefore, I suggest that President Hoype and our esteemed trustees institute rules for greater financial transparency for this, and future administrations. Making public senior level personnel salaries, amount invested in expansion projects and spending in athletics will surely garner faith in the future of the college and the value of accountability the administration has.

In his inauguration speech President Hoype told the audience “we must be bold.” I see no better opportunity to be bold than financial transparency.

In an effort to be bold and transparent, I am publishing The Beacon’s budget allocation, which is

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Modern Day Warrior: Mr. Manners

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Editor in Chief

For those of you just jumping into this, this is my final month of the Modern Day Warrior project. It started off in September when I was a vegetarian for a month, then in October I gave up social media and my smart phone. The final “deprivation phase” was not consuming alcohol for a month—a sobering and, well frankly sad month for a senior in college.

For the final phase of the project, I am taking something on. I am attempting to follow all rules and guidelines codified by the Emily Post Institute for etiquette.

Those of you who know me understand I can be very sarcastic, oftentimes cynical and sometimes judgmental—I guess you pick those traits up as a student journalist. To be fair, I consider myself polite most of the time. I address authority with respect, I hold doors, I am generally nice. But etiquette takes it a bit further, and I am learning just how to adapt it.

For starters I shouldn’t lie or be impolite, or say nasty things about others. (I already lied about three sentences ago, I am judgmental a lot of the time.) A big part is just learning to bite my tongue in certain situations.

I am making a sincere effort to not look at my phone at meals, not slouch in my chair in classes, keep my elbows off the table, etc. But I find myself not able to adapt as easily. The phone I once gave up for a month is killing me. On Sunday I met my mother for breakfast, the whole time she had her phone out on the table, showing me and texting. I laughed as I thought of the role reversal, and cringed when I could hear my phone buzzing on the wooden booth, wanting and needing to pick it up.

So starting next week, I won’t take my phone to classes; I will resist the urge to see who emailed me or texted me by keeping my phone in my room. I will watch my language, watch how I comment on things and try not to slouch in my 8 a.m. class.

I think by week four, I should really have the hang of this.

I encourage you to keep an eye on the daily good behavior reports on the school’s website, and lending a hand to friends who may need a push in the right direction.

I promise to follow-up with you next month on how this all went, but I promise to keep you in the loop and let you know where I stand on this project, and the progress I have made on my personal quest to be a more polite and considerate individual.

Enjoy the month and keep up with me and the other MDW’s!”
Women’s Basketball Suffers Tough Loss

Helen Gillis ‘13
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2, the Merrimack women’s basketball team took on the Greyhounds of Assumption College. The Warriors (11-8 overall and 7-8 in the NE-10) had a tough loss against third-in-the-conference Assumption, with the score of 86-62. Freshman Ashley Weissmann had 12 points during the game along with three rebounds. Sophomore guard Chloe Rothman, nine points, three rebounds and three assists. Allison Wagner scored eight points coming off the bench and Jaclyn Lynons and Melissa Miller both put up seven points during the game.

Even with this loss the Warriors are having a stronger season than their last year record of 5-21.

“Despite the past few losses, I know this team understands we have something special. It’s a completely different feel this year, we’re re-energized and more focused,” said Rothman. “It’s fun waking up everyday, and being a part of something special makes every day that much better.”

Asked about the loss, head coach Monique LeBlanc said, “Any loss is disappointing for our team because we prepare to compete for a win every time we step on the floor. However, the team has continued to make great strides all season long and has found ways to work through adversity.”

LeBlanc continued, “This is a really fun and hard-working group. The right time for the right team will continue to be resilient, and we are looking forward to attacking our upcoming games.”

The Warriors’ next home game is against UMass Lowell (14-5 overall, 11-4 NE-10) Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.

Training Pays Off for Merrimack Men’s Track

Kerry Phelan ’16
Staff Writer

Since Merrimack Track and Field’s debut as an NCAA Division II sport in 2010, head coach Matt Pimentel has been slowly building the team into a well-rounded squad.

As Merrimack Indoor Track enters its third year, the training is paying off. The Merrimack men took first place out of nine teams at the Southern Maine Invitational on Jan. 26. Leading the Warriors was graduate student Ian Weaver, who placed first in the high jump with a distance of 1.73 meters, and third in the 200m.

His brother, Ethan Weaver, also had a successful day, with a second-place finish in the 400 meters.

Senior Artis Holt claimed second in the 55-meter dash behind freshman Denzel Livingston who won the race in 6.68.

In addition to Livingston, sophomores Louis Cruz and Sherif Ali won their events in the 1000 meter and 3k.

Ali set a school record in the process, with a time of 8:54.

Freshmen Conor Clark and Adam Gildey also exhibited strong performances, placing in the top 5 for the 800 meter and mile, respectively.

“Considering the limited amounts of athletes we have on the team, winning this meet was certainly an accomplishment,” said Ethan Weaver.

With a win behind them, the future of both the men and women’s track teams is hopeful.

The women’s team placed second in the Byon Invitational the week prior.

“As a new program winning our first meet certainly is a step in the right direction, it is truly a milestone for the program and we only look to make strides from here,” said Pimentel.

Next up for the Warriors is the BU Valentine’s Day Invitational on Monday.

Proposed Gun Laws Miss Mark

GUNS

Continued from Page 8

which illegal weapons are obtained by the criminal class presents the deadbeat conquest of gun control advocates, it is unlikely that banning mutative assault weapons and slightly larger than minute magazines will somehow stop criminals from propagating carnage, while making gun ownership a futile endeavor for responsible citizens.

The universal background check being pushed in various quarters of government will extend meaningful reform if enacted in law in areas that currently lie outside of the federal government’s aegis, i.e., firearms sold privately between parties at gun shows. The close vetting will prevent miscreants from obtaining weaponry, provided they have stains on their record. However, proposals to deal with the axioms of violence should be given precedent over crowd pleasing reform like the assault weapons ban.

Mexico has rigid gun control laws and the ascendency of drug cartels has led most citizens to ignore their countries’ laws to protect themselves. The cartel members did not obtain the guns in a proper fashion and it is fallacious to imagine that banning certain weapons will correlate with a denudation of violence. Criminals do not follow the law, while many shooters have clear records that make invasive background checks and elongated waiting periods irrelevant. This does not diminish the need for rigorous background checks, which must continue to be implemented, but does discount the view that evil can be purged so successfully by law.

The 2011 mass shooting in Norway occurred despite rigid gun laws and a criminal who obeyed those laws. By the same token, the Newtown shooter would not have appeared on the most rigorous database-short of a device that enables peering into the interiority of each individual. It is manifest that destitution, penury, and social decline are driving causes of horrific violence. Focusing on the roots of societal scourges will be palpably more difficult than the “findings” of Joe Biden’s two-month peripatetic adventuring. Concentrating on these will surely flummox state and federal bureaucracies bereft of the rah-rah mentality that has been so propitious of late in catalyzing putative reform. Subsequently, policies following this vein strike a different tone than that of the expedient, shallow and weak edicts so many believe capable of expiating evil from civilization.

In closing, I direct you to an excerpt from a New York Times’ op-ed from 1985, entitled “An Item of News,” regarding the United States’ response to the Soviet Union’s attack on a Korean airlines flight traveling from the United States to Seoul in which 269 people were killed. The following epigraph, ascribed to Aristotle, offers a plea for restraint amid the tangled and visceral emotions following these tragedies: “Anyone can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose and in the right way—that is not easy.” The editorial goes on to proffer an entreaty for diplomacy in the face of the inhumane and the calamitous, excerpted here:

“What is the right degree and purpose of American anger at the Soviet Union? Public rage is not an everyday political passion, and from the certain about how to express it, for how long, to what effect ... The Administration has been moving from dignified, justified anger toward political opportunism.” As Ben Franklin warned in “Poor Richard’s Almanack,” ‘whate’er’s begun in anger ends in shame.’

And angry Americans are, justifiably so. The murder of 269 air travelers was unsettling enough. The Soviet government’s long hesitation before even admitting the deed compounded the irresponsibility. The crude campaign to shift the blame, as if any provocation could justify such murder, is more enraging still.

“The president has been at his worst when milking this episode for support of the first-strike-only MX missile, the kind of weapon that will only increase the temptation of either superpower to shoot first in a crisis’... ‘The anger of individual Americans cannot shape the national defense.’

With the NRA engaging in the most debasing tactics, spitefully involving the president’s daughters in a debate that has remained feral and juvenile, dynamic interjection remains to be seen. Avoiding opportunism and refusing to cow to the ire of the majority are values that deserve a bastion whether the date is 1983 today, or any epoch in which prudence and discourse are valued above crass appeals to emotion when the monstrous inexcusable occurs.

Join the discussion ...

www.merrimacknewspaper.com
WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kelly Schlatzlein

Brianna Trabucco '13
Staff Writer

Kelly Schlatzlein’s hard work over the past four years has landed her a spot on top of the NE-10 in rebounding, averaging 10.9 rebounds per game. The senior captain also averages 11.1 points per game for the Warriors. If Schlatzlein continues her dominance and racks up 228 more boards this season, she will become only the second Warrior in Merrimack history to rack up 1,000 career rebounds and 1,000 career points.

The Merrimack women’s basketball team is on track to have its best season in seven years. With a record of 11-8, the Warriors have more than doubled their five wins from last season.

Schlatzlein and her team have focused on working as hard as they possibly can every single practice. Their main focus has been on defense because, for them, defense has been the key to their success this season. February is a huge month for the Warriors and they plan on using some of that tough defense to defeat the likes of UMass Lowell, Stonehill and UMass-Lowell, with hopes of landing a spot in the NE-10 play-offs.

The Warriors’ next matchup is with the Stonehill Skyhawks on Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Q: How did you get into basketball?
A: I have been playing my entire life. Both of my parents played in college and even since I was little I have been playing. My parents have never forced me to play and that made me fall in love with it even more.

Q: Who is your favorite professional athlete?

Q: How has this season been different from the last seasons?
A: Last year with a new coach it was really hard to learn a whole new defense and offense with a lot of new young players. This year my coach brought in more freshmen that work really hard. We’ve worked a lot on defense and stopping other teams from scoring so that has lead to our success this year.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals?
A: I don’t have any. I used to have little superstitions in the beginning of college but I got away from it because I thought it was kind of stupid.

Q: How does it feel to be the leader in the NE-10 for rebounding?
A: It’s really cool just because I have really focused a lot in my career on rebounding and I know that it is something I need to do to help the team and its really great to be leading the league in it.

Q: How is your team preparing for a playoff push?
A: February is a huge month for us because we play some of the best teams. We are focusing on defense every practice because defense for us wins games so we continue to key in on it.

Q: What is your major?
A: Athletic Training

Q: What do you want to do after college?
A: I’m trying to get a graduate assistant position hopefully at UConn, Fairfield, Sacred Heart, or South Carolina.

Q: What was your favorite win here at Merrimack?
A: It was two years ago when we beat Franklin Pierce. They were undefeated and we were one of the bottom teams in the league and we went into it just thinking we were going to win and we did.

Men’s Hoops Hopes For Bigger Finish

Andrew Hurd ’13
Staff Writer

The men’s basketball team looks to end the season on a high note as they come down the stretch.

With an overall record of 8-12 and a season full of inconsistent play, the Warriors have seven games remaining to chalk up some more victories.

The team has struggled in the New Year and has had a tough time playing away from home. They are 3-6 in 2013 and have yet to win an away game. The most recent games have been particular difficult because they have been so close. Three of their most recent games were all decided by only 4 points.

The likelihood of a playoff appearance seems unlikely with the rest of the top NE-10 teams playing very well but there are 7 games to make a run and the Warriors are due for a winning streak after some heartbreaking losses.

The Warriors have been led all season by Mike Clifford, Tyler Young, Gevlin Solano, J.T. Strickland and Kevin Regan, and the team will look to them to finish the season strong.

The Warriors will travel Stonehill Saturday for an NE-10 matchup in hopes of improving their season record to above .500 and get their second win of the season over Skyhawks.

MC Athletic Schedule

Through Feb. 22

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<td>Friday Feb. 8</td>
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<td>M Hockey: at Boston University 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday, Feb. 9</td>
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<td>M Hockey: Massachusetts TV: NESN 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>M Basketball: at Stonehill 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>W Basketball: at Stonehill 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>M Tennis: at Bryant</td>
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<td>M Track &amp; Field: at BU Valentine Invitational All Day</td>
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<td>Thursday Feb. 15</td>
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<td>Friday Feb. 15</td>
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<td>M Hockey: Boston College 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday Feb. 16</td>
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<td>W Basketball: at UMass-Lowell 1 p.m.</td>
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Join the discussion ... www.merrimacknewspaper.com
Warriors Wing Hawks, 1-0

Terence Barclay ’13
Staff Writer

On Feb. 1, the Merrimack Warriors took the ice against the no. 12 UMass Lowell River Hawks in a sold-out Lawler Arena. The game was also broadcast and televised on NESN.

The Warriors defeated the River Hawks by a score of 1-0. Junior goalie Sam Marotta made 25 saves in his third career shutout and second of the season.

The Warriors scored the game-winning goal in the final period, as freshman Justin Hussar picked up his third goal of the season. The Warriors’ penalty kill was the key to success Friday as they killed off two-man advantages on two separate occasions and a 6-on-3 at the end of the game with the River Hawks’ empty net.

UMass Lowell was 0-for-8 in shots on goal during their man advantages.

Another key stat in the victory was the faceoff battle; the Warriors held a 44-31 advantage. Junior Rhett Bly added to his national lead in faceoff wins, leading the Warriors all night, finishing the game with 15 wins in his 20 chances.

Mike Collins, who was named Hockey East Player of the Month for January, did not record a point in Friday night’s game for only the second time in a Merrimack win.

This win also gives head coach Mark Dennehy his 100th career victory at Merrimack, in only eight season behind the bench.

With this win, the Warriors are now tied for fourth place in Hockey East with the Providence Friars, with one game in hand.

The Warriors sit one point behind Boston University for third place, with a game in hand on the Terriers as well.

The Warriors’ win over UMass Lowell gave coach Mark Dennehy his 100th MC victory.

Photos by Heather Kent ’13