Senior Days Dwindle
Jillian Toce ’13
and Alicia Unis ’13
Staff Writers

In true Class of 2013 fashion, we made our own celebration of 79 Days until graduation, unique to the tradition of past classes. Instead of commemorating over the postponement of Commentary the beloved event that was to be “100 Days,” we strapped on our snow boots, threw our shovels over our shoulders, and gave ourselves an extra long weekend.

But just as there was no stopping the two feet of snow that covered the campus in our friend, Nemo, as a sophomore you live in Mon- ican, as a junior in the townhouses or O’Brien which upperclassmen still affectionately refer to as “Gati” and as a senior you live in the most desired of on-campus housing — the apartments.

But the Office of Residence Life is attempting to change the way students think about on-campus housing, going as far as saying “it isn’t about where you live, but who you live with.”

Residence Life is debunking what many Merrimack students would say is a natural residency hierarchy. According to campus officials, there is just not enough space to house classes in certain areas or buildings.

“Opening 345 new spaces in the new residence hall provides us with a great opportunity to transform the way we look at housing at Merrimack.’

As a result of student feedback, we moved the process back online for this upcoming year,” said Hicks.

For those who are satisfied in their current housing assignment, this year, students may request to continue living in the room they currently are assigned for next year. Another special housing request include dedicated housing communities for upperclassmen who are part of the Austin Scholars or Honor Program, or the Peace Corps. and many others, there is no stopping the coming now 72 days until graduation. And as we look into the barrel of the gun that is our impending graduation, we’re unavoidably forced to contemplate our future.

As those of us who will bravely be attempting the plunge into the “real world,” we’ve got internships and jobs on the brain. We are all suffering from a plight unique to the tradition of past classes. Instead of commemorating over the postponement of Commentary the beloved event that was to be “100 Days,” we strapped on our snow boots, threw our shovels over our shoulders, and gave ourselves an extra long weekend.

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**Questions on the Quad**

*By Agata Adamczuk ’13*

**What are your plans for Spring Break?**

Erin #hillea

Merrimack weather confuses me

Joe Meloni #JoeMeloni

Based on results I expect next weekend, HE QP series would be: UMass at UNH, Vermont at UML, Merrimack at BC, BU at Providence.

tpainn #Tawynpainnn

Thanks Merrimack college for towning my car when I was in New York playing for your school oh and parked in the correct spot. Makes sense?!

Joshua Kummins #JoshuaKummins

A little disappointed the weird “box thing” was not still at Merrimack for me to sit in today. @BryanDroche @BOShockeyblog #pressboxoverflow

OSI_MC #OSI_MC @merrimack

Did you know we are running a shuttle service on Saturdays and Sundays?

Chris Pietlicki™ #ChrisPietlicki

@Cpiatelli3: GOT INTO MERRIMACK!!! yay congrats!!!

Lindsay Gibbs #gibbletass

1) i wish i knew how to navigate the merrimack library website.
2) i wish i did this paper last week

Christine Keenan #christinekeenan

@jillibean seriousy come to Merrimack soon it’s much needed

Alex Ross #alex94ross @eriquelhx there’s no way i’m leaving Merrimack without going to Sparkys this weekend #heardgreatthings

Ashlee Cedrone #acedrone18 @Cpiatelli3: GOTO MERRIMACK!!!

Marie W. #miscreenet Just finished the last midterm of my college career...in the home-stretch now :-) @merrimack #Happylady

Mickey Cohen #MickeybroR-icker Merrimack girls... please have sex with me #IllPayYou

halle skivas @hallesofia merrimack i love you please send me an acceptance letter <3

**Police Log**

Feb. 24

Student reported to Police Services that her iPhone 4 is missing from her room.

Feb. 27

Resident student called to report commuter student has hit her vehicle in the Campus Center Lot. Sgt. Responded. No injuries reported, one vehicle towed by Elm St.

Resident student called to report a suspicious male in the O’Brien courtyard. Student stated that her and her friend saw a white male in his 40’s wearing a polo hat and a black coat. They saw the individual at two separate times, student wanted to report it because she felt he didn’t belong.

March 1

While conducting patrol officer observed several students flipping over tables and chairs in the Deegan West second floor common area. Officer reports of a broken chair. Officer spoke with resident students. Cleaners notified that there was some broken furniture in the Deegan West common area.

RA called to report that a group of girls knocked on her door when she opened the door there was a trash can fill of water in front of her door and the water was leaking all over her floor. Dispatch has notified the cleaners.

March 2

Male suspect who may have broken into the Campus Center is in custody after a suspect gave possibly a fake name. Second male suspect is in custody. Sergeant is en route to NAPD with two males. AC has been notified.

O’Brien RA called Police Services requesting an alcohol assessment. Officer requests an ambulance for a female non-student, actively vomiting. Dispatch notified AFD. Non student is being transported by ambulance to LGH.

March 3

Female student called to report a loud noise complaint issuing from L-Tower. Dispatch notified the AC.

Female caller reports loud noise/fighting going on for a long time in O’Brien Hall. Officer responding. All occupants of the room have been ID’d.

**Mack Tweets**

By Agata Adamczuk ’13

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Volunteering at Heart of Stevens

Sarah Buckwald ’14
Staff Writer

The Stevens Service Learning Center at Merrimack gives students the opportunity to volunteer throughout their community. The center establishes ties between community service and a student’s academic experience at college, and provides a number of service sites to volunteer at.

Stevens is on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center, and the staff encourages students to get involved. The center provides an opportunity for organizations to acquire volunteers as well as giving students the chance to explore different communities. Students gain valuable life experience from the service and career volunteering.

Katie Donell, coordinator at Stevens, said, “The benefit from the center is the connection with the student’s academics and the service of giving back to the community.”

Any student is welcome to come into the office and sign up for a volunteer trip. It doesn’t matter if you come as an individual or with a team or organization to partake in this opportunity. Students gain valuable life experience from the service and career volunteering.

Most of the volunteer trips have transportation provided and also offer a variety of sites to choose from. The opportunities range from helping the elderly to the youth and to education. Students can help out at the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club as well as assist a detective at the Lawrence Police Department. Other volunteer sites include categories of homelessness, disabilities and other interests such as the local YMCA.

Seven to be Confirmed at MC

The Merrimack College community is invited to join in the celebration of seven students as they participate in the Sacrament of Initiation on Sunday, April 7 at 5 p.m. in the Collegiate Church.

Back, from left: Fr. Bill Waters, Ben Knox, Andrew Suttle, and Ignacio Farias
Front, from left: Maria Arzu, Maegan Cote, Kerry Phelan, and Hannah Morley

Courtesy Photo

MC: Invest that Check

Amanda DeMarco ’13
Staff Writer

Have you invested a birthday check recently? Have you thought about what to do with monetary gifts from an upcoming graduation? If your answer to these questions is “no,” you are not alone. Instead of depositing all of your hard-earned money into a zero-interest checking account, you may want to consider some other easy options.

Savings Accounts: Opening a savings account may help you learn how to save on a regular basis. Set a goal. A small goal such as adding $20 per month to your account really adds up in the long run. Many banks offer savings accounts with no minimum balance requirements or monthly fees – making this account a cost-effective option. Even if a bank charges a fee for opening a savings account, the fee might be waived for a new customer or for a marketing promotion. Just ask!

Certificates of Deposit (CDs): If you have a hard time fighting the temptation to spend, a certificate of deposit may be a smart option for you. Short-term CDs “lock” your money into the account until the maturity date (usually 6 months to a year). Once the account matures, you have the option to add more money or to withdraw some of your funds. If you try to withdraw any money before the maturity date, you will have to pay penalty fees. CDs usually have a higher minimum deposit than savings accounts but they offer higher interest rates. Shop around for CD interest rates to make sure you are getting the best return on your investment. The website cdrates.bankaholic.com gives the banks with top CD rates in the country – many of these banks are online!

Money Market Accounts: If you have been saving since your first part-time job, you may have enough money to open a money market account. These accounts often have higher required minimum deposits, but they can offer a higher interest rate than both savings accounts and CDs. Unlike a CD, your money is not “locked in” to the account so you are free to use your savings whenever they are needed.

Mutual Funds: For people who are interested in investments but don’t fully understand the stock market, a mutual fund could be a great option. An indexed mutual fund mimics the returns of a larger stock index, such as the S&P 500 or the Dow. Once you invest in this type of a fund, you do not have to worry about managing your money – the mutual fund has returns similar to the stock market. Investment companies such as Fidelity and Putnam provide you with access to these funds.

Understanding your options can help you decide which types of savings or investments are right for you. Building a strong financial foundation in college can help you earn returns on your investments throughout the rest of your lifetime.
Spring: Time to Get Out ...

Michelle Visco ‘14
Staff Writer

Spring is almost here and that means there is more time for fun outdoor activities. With Spring Break right around the corner some students may have plans to travel, but others will be enjoying the break locally. There are many activities that students can be part of even if they are not going away for Spring Break.

Miniature golfing can be a great way to socialize, relax and enjoy the fresh air. There are lots of places that you can go around here, but one in particular is Richardson’s in Middleton. There, they have two miniature golf courses, a driving range, a batting cage, a farm, and Richardson’s ice cream. This location is perfect, day or night.

If you’re feeling adventurous you can head to Boston where there is never a shortage of activities. Taking in a Red Sox game in Boston is always a great time. This is the perfect thing to do on a warm spring night. While you are in Boston you can always stop for some frozen yogurt along the way at BerryLine, or PinkBerry.

Also in Boston you can take a trip to the Aquarium. The Aquarium is a must see for people who love aquatic animal species as they have many different exhibits with a wide range of animals. Also at the Aquarium College students will receive a discount when presenting their student I.D. The cost for the Aquarium with a student I.D. is $15.95.

The Duck Tours and swan boats are another activity you won’t want to miss in Boston. The Duck Tours offer a student rate as well so you will be able to get a discounted price. Both these activities are great for spring because you will be able to get outside, relax and enjoy the fresh air.

Another great place to go at night is Fire and Ice in Boston. Fire and Ice is a bar and grille restaurant that offers a variety of foods such as vegetables, pastas, meats and seafood which are all cooked in front of you on their Mongolian-style grill. On Monday nights they have college night which costs $9.95 when you present your college I.D. After dinner you could take a walk through the public garden or even Faneuil Hall.

If you love shopping then The Kittery Outlets in Maine and the Wrentham outlets in Wrentham offer a variety of stores with often discounted prices. Here, you can shop outdoors and dine at some of the restaurants in the area as well.

The start of spring is always an exciting time because we know summer is on its way soon. Whatever you end up doing this spring, whether you are going on vacation, enjoying Boston, shopping, or just spending time outdoors it is important to enjoy spring while it’s here.

... Or Chill on Campus

Joan Corcoran ‘13
Associate Editor in Chief

With spring just around the corner it is time to shed those heavy winter clothes and get ready for warm weather activities. Campus life can get dreary during those cold, winter weeks but all that is about to change. With winter sports coming to an end it is time to welcome the return of all our talented spring sports teams. Some of these teams include men and women’s lacrosse, softball, baseball and a variety of club sports. Home games are always a great way to show your support for the Merrimack community and your fellow students. Get a group of your friends together and create a fun fan section to show the athletes that work so hard your school spirit.

Going to sporting events is not the only activity to do on campus. Instead of sitting inside and watching TV or playing video games go outside and enjoy the sunshine. Grab a Frisbee or a soccer ball and get active with friends. Hanging out in the O’Brien quad is the perfect way to socialize with friends passing by. Also, with Wi-Fi access outside you can enjoy the weather and get work done or listen to music.

When the sun starts to set grab some friends and head outside for an evening barbecue to really utilize the weather. There are grills located in the apartment quads, the O’Brien quad, and the freshman quad. All you need is coal, burgers, buns and friends to make an ordinary spring dinner into a great memory.

Let’s not forget about one of the greatest weekends on campus, Spring Weekend. This weekend revolves around outdoor activities such as impromptu outdoor games in the quad, beer tents for those 21+, kickball and softball games, and much more. Students tend to congregate outside the apartments, which gives the feel of a big community block party. It is a time for all students to spend time together in a laid-back, outdoor setting.

Spring always feels like a new beginning after the long winters and it is up to the students to utilize all the summer has to offer during the last semester.

For Break, Try Driving Up North

Kayla Morong ‘12
Beacon Alumna

If you aren’t heading to Cancun, Montreal or Jamaica for Spring Break, an affordable alternative is just a short ride up Interstate 95. Maine, referred to as "Vacationland," is a great way to experience New England for shopping and outdoor activities.

If you’re into hitting the slopes, Sugarloaf, Sunday River, and Saddleback Mountain are some of Maine’s finest ski resorts. Don’t like to ski or snowboard? Then plan a day of snowshoeing, snowmobiling, tubing or even cross-country skiing? a specific bar, which is an exciting moment to give you a fulfilling day trip or weekend getaway.

Maybe the outdoors isn’t right for you? Maine offers plenty of shopping. If you want to stay close to campus take a thirty-five minute drive to the Kittery Outlets. Visit a variety of stores such as Nike, Ralph Lauren, J-Crew, and Gap. The list keeps going on. For those who enjoy road trips, stop at the Freeport Outlets and experience Maine’s finest retail store, L.L.Bean.

Tired of shopping and want to enjoy fine dining? Then book a room in Portland and visit the Old Port. Take a tour of the Shipyard Brewing Company or even experience a meal at Gritty’s restaurant. Some signature dishes include, Gritty’s Pub Mac and Cheese, the Turkey Club, and Shepard’s Pie. It’s bar food or appetizers you’re craving you can’t go wrong with the pulled pork nachos.

For those who are 21, check out the nightlife at the port. They’re many bars and clubs, making for a memorable evening. Some bars include, 51 Wharf Nightclub and Lounge, The Acreum (a sports bar, night club and concert hall), Bull Feeney’s, Oasis, and Fore Play Sports Pub. With all this excitement, you’re guaranteed to have a fun. If the weather is like it was last year, take a ride to Old Orchard Beach and soak in some beach time. The attractions may not be open, but you can always bask in the sun or take a walk near the shoreline.

Why not try a vacation in Maine? It may not be what you envisioned for Spring Break, but there’s plenty to offer for a great vacation.
Week Focuses on Exploring Social Justice

Nicole Meaney '13 Staff Writer

Social Justice Week, from March 11 to 15, will pose two important questions to the Merrimack community: What is social justice for us as individuals? How engaged do you want to be in practical terms with the idea of contributing to build a more just world? In other words, this is an opportunity to define what social justice means to individuals and to being a part of a community.

This grassroots initiative will feature events that offer exposure to how a community of individuals can incorporate social justice into their lives. Here is a sample of events below:

• Monday, March 11: Merrimack Safe Zone Training will be held in Murray Lounge. Attendees will be certified to create safer spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people on campus. This presents the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to receive a Merrimack Safe Zone square to display. To register, interested parties can contact Chelsea Fullerton or Nic Wildes.
• On March 12, an Intersectional Justice Workshop will take place in the Sakowich Building and is open to members of the public.
• March 13 will present social justice challenges through artistic expression. First, a documentary will be shown at the Rodgers Center entitled "Dos Americanos." Also in the Rodgers Center, "Kuli Tudisco '15 will present a short play.
• On March 14, Merrimack will welcome Phyllis Kornfeld: Cell Block Visions in Murray Lounge. Sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Criminology, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and the School of Liberal Arts, this presentation will offer insight into the world of prison art. According to Kornfeld’s website, she is an expert on prison art (who) offers a slide/lecture presenting powerful images and eloquent quotes that reveal this unseen subculture and illuminate the human faces of its inhabitants.”
• Later in the day, McQuade Auditorium will host “Precious Knowledge,” a documentary about the battle to defend the successful Mexican Studies Program in the Tucson, Ariz., High School District against the attacks of the Arizona legislature. Following the screening, guests may join a Q & A with documentarian Eren McGinnis and education activist Sean Arce.

Concluding Social Justice Week, history buffs can take a walking tour of Lawrence and the Everett Mill thanks to the Lawrence History Center. Advance registration is required, and can be done by contacting professor Luis Saen de Viguera Erkinger. Besides the events listed above, Social Justice Week holds many more surprises and events.

Sodexo ‘Station’ Helps with Hydration

Kerry Phelan '16 Staff Writer

When students pass by the Warrior’s Den they now have the opportunity to fill up their water bottles using the new Hydration Station. This new station, an idea created by Michael Newmark, general manager of Sodexo, is part of a nutrition and sustainability effort Sodexo has created this semester.

According to Head Dietician Erin Hickey, this new station is just one part of Sodexo’s many efforts in their Nutrition Nook initiative. Essentially each week, Hickey stations herself outside the Den near the Hydration Station and in Sparky’s Place to answer any questions or concerns students may have regarding food options, allergies, or how to make the most out of a meal. “We try to offer tips and resources for all students, like athletes, who are concerned about weight and other concerns students may have,” said Hickey.

Along with being a resource for students, Sodexo also puts on mini activities once a week geared towards helping students make healthy choices, not only within the cafeteria, but even in their residential hall. Some activities have included cooking tips for healthy snacks that can power you throughout the day using inexpensive ingredients.

Some students have suggested having a plain water option for those who do not care for the fruit. However, the demand for the fruit enhanced water has been high. One Sodexo employee explained that by lunchtime she normally has already refilled the water jugs at least three times. Hickey said, “Students have given her feedback that the fruit flavoring, especially pineapple and lemon are their favorites.”

Hickey said that she would like to see students use the water to fill water bottles, thereby reducing the amount of waste on campus. “Originally the station was designed for water bottles, but after seeing the success, we decided we would keep the cups,” said Hickey. However, as the sign states near the station, “If students choose to fill up bottles rather than buy plastic, it would save campus 320,000 plastic bottles each year.” Sodexo emphasizes that even just a small change to the daily routine can bring about big change.

Serengetee: Wear the World

Kali Tudisco '15 Staff Writer

This spring, Merrimack College’s OnStagers will take on The Producers, the hilarious and wildly successful Mel Brooks musical that holds the distinction of winning the most Tony awards of any Broadway production in history.

Max Bialystock (Kevin Welch), a failed Broadway producer, and his nerdy accountant, Leo Bloom (Kevin Robinson) concoct a brilliant money-making scheme: to raise two million dollars as the budget of a Broadway musical that closes down immediately and then run away with the extra cash. To pull this off, they produce the worst, most offensive play of all time, guaranteed to be a disaster: “Springtime for Hitler.”

“I knew that it would stretch all the performers to their limits, giving them the chance to improve their craft. This is an incredibly demanding production that forces the performers out of their comfort zones,” says Father Piatt. “The dancing in particular is a challenge.

When searching for a way to be fashionable while helping the world look no further than Serengetee. A clothing company started by a group of college friends, Serengetee’s No. 1 mission is to give back to the world. The idea for their company started in 2011. Jeff Steitz, the cofounder and CEO of Serengetee, as well as Ryan Westberg, also a cofounder, became inspired by the diverse fabrics they encountered while abroad. They came up with an idea to create t-shirt pockets from colorful and diverse fabrics from all around the world including countries such as The United States, China, Africa and Guatemala. Serengetee offers black or white T-shirts, V-neck T-shirts, tank tops, racer back tank tops and long-sleeved shirts. Each shirt goes for $24 and for every shirt you purchase 13 percent of that goes to a charity across the globe; each fabric corresponds to a foundation affiliated with the region it is from.

Visit the Serengetee website at www.serengetee.com and message your campus rep Agata Adamczuk on Facebook for your 15 percent off code!
Fr. Jim Leading Pilgrims in Augustine’s Path

TRIP
Continued from Page 1

meet for group discussions to gain a deeper understanding of the Augustine tradition.

The trip begins where Augustine began his journey, in Milan. Here, attendees learn about St. Augustine’s emphasis on friendship and happiness, by visiting Cassagio Brianna, where views of the foothills of the Alps surround the Church of St. James and St. Bridget. In his lifetime, Augustine felt deeply influenced by the preaching of the bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose. Attendees can also see the Cathedral of Milan. Nearby, a visit to the Galleria is a treat. Allowed time to wander, pilgrims may find a hidden treasure by climbing to the top of the Cathedral of Milan for the views. Along the way, attendees are given the opportunity to experience history firsthand, where St. Augustine and philosopher Boethius are located.

The pilgrimage continues to Tuscany, to experience the Augustinian tradition of Renaissance humanism. Attendees arrive in San Gimignano, where they stay with members of the Augustinian community and experience the hospitality and generosity of the community. Between walks down the cobblestone streets and hearing lectures by Augustinians, attendees gain a deeper understanding of the journey that they are on. They will hear Mass celebrated in Italian and visit sites linked to St. Augustine’s roots.

The final leg of the pilgrimage is a stop in Vatican City, for a deeper understanding of the rule of St. Augustine, his place of intracreligious theology, and the role of the general house of the Augustinian order. This occurs through a visit to St. Peter’s Basilica and other sites.

All of the tour leaders of Delusco ’12 recall her experience fondly. “There is something about the Pellegrinaggio that brings people together,” she said. “Spending time traveling to one of the most beautiful and welcoming places on Earth is like nothing else. It is one of the unique countries that can combine modern advances in ruined cities like Ostia Antica, and still have a unique beauty unto itself. The food, wine, landscape, culture, and people make the Pellegrinaggio truly spectacular.”

The 41 attendees of this year’s journey will be in Rome for Easter Sunday. The Holy Saturday Mass, the Easter Vigil, will take place in St. Peter’s Basilica, while Easter Sunday morning Mass will be outside in the Square. Furthermore, by Easter Sunday of this year, a new pope will likely be elected.

As Fr. Jim said, “What a wonderful chance to see the new pope’s first Easter Mass.”

Demonstrating how far the Augustinian community stretches, a couple in South Africa heard about Merrimack’s Pellegrinaggio in Italy from the Augustinian community there, and contacted Fr. Jim about going on the trip this year. This couple, a retired nurse and doctor from Durban, will be meeting up with this year’s attendees.

Student Sarah Wooley ’14 is attending this year’s Pellegrinaggio. “I am most excited about immersing myself into a new culture and meeting new people,” she said. She also chose to go to experience what Augustine did when he went on a journey to find himself and religion.

Fr. Jim said there is still an opportunity for alumni, faculty, and staff to apply to join. Those who are interested can contact Fr. Jim or Kathy Vaillancourt at the Office of Experiential Learning.

Graphene: Miracle Material

James Callens ’14
Staff Writer

Graphene, also referred to as a "miracle material," is a single layer of carbon atoms bound together; a carbon polymer. Until now, the endless possible uses for Graphene seemed nothing more than mere speculation.

It was discovered when Graphite was placed between two pieces of tape and then the two pieces were peeled apart creating Graphene. This process was very inefficient on the large scale, however.

Researchers at UCLA recently found a simple and efficient way to make Graphene. They basically just used a laser to oxygenate Graphite oxide.

To start off, Graphene is almost invisible and weightless. It is tougher than a diamond and two-hundred times stronger than steel. To put that into perspective, the force to break though it would be equivalent to an elephant balanced on a pencil.

Another plus is that it is stretchable like rubber and it is a better conductor of heat and electricity than copper. This gives Graphene endless possibilities in the commercial market.

Some of Graphene’s potential applications include: thin televisions and phones, lighter aircrafts, and even replacing silicon in computer chips (the main reason for the recent hype). Graphene can also act as a super capacitor. It can charge and discharge quickly, unlike a battery. Also it can store equal to or more electricity than batteries. Imagine supercharging your phone or your battery-powered car in minutes instead of hours.

Of course with everything new, there are a few drawbacks. First, it is made from Graphite which costs between $2,000-$3,000 per ton. The price is high mainly due to the rise in lithium ion batteries. There is also about 10 times more graphite in the batteries than there is lithium.

So in the end, commercial use may take a few years when Graphite prices start to drop.
MERRIMACK’S MOST INTERESTING PERSON
John ‘Mr. Merrimack’ Pellerin

Kara-Marie Joyce ’14
Staff Writer

This week’s most interesting person on campus has a face that is very recognizable: He is Mr. Merrimack himself.

We all know the name and the face of John Pellerin from the Mr. Merrimack competition this past fall; however, we don’t know much about the man himself.

John Michael Pellerin was born on May 28, 1992. He made his way to North Andover all the way from Benson, Vt. John says he originally chose Merrimack because of football as well as the athletic training program, but he couldn’t help being drawn to the campus itself.

John is now a junior here, working toward a major in athletic training. He hopes to someday be a health and science teacher, either for elementary or high school students. While teaching, he hopes to get involved in high school sports as well, being either an athletic trainer or a football coach.

While John has a very busy future planned ahead of him, he keeps active now with his schoolwork, spending his free time outdoors. He enjoys camping, fishing, taking hikes, and in the summer hanging out by a lake.

John wowed the Rogers Center with his performance in the Mr. Merrimack competition and allowed the Merrimack community to see many different sides of him. He showed us his goofy side in the swimsuit portion of the show, coming out in flippers and floats dancing around the stage to the song “Splish Splash.” He later showed us a more sensual side in the talent portion of the competition, wearing a shimmery red and black dress while performing a soulful dance to “Bohemian Rhapsody.” John said he prepared for the competition by just finding some funny songs for the different themes and choreographing moves to go along with them.

John found the downside of actually being in the competition was missing the performances of the other contestants, but he enjoyed getting to bond with them and share some laughs during rehearsals.

John hopes to spend his time as Mr. Merrimack being a good role model for students, and being involved as much as he can in the Merrimack community.

Above, Pellerin hangs with his ‘court’; at right, he is crowned Mr. Merrimack.

Drink of the Week

Kiss Me I’m Irish

1 1/2 Oz. Herradura Silver Tequila
1 Dash Lime Juice
3/4 Oz. Melon Liqueur

The Beacon reminds students that the drinking age in Massachusetts and New Hampshire is 21, and that the amount of alcohol that mixes with driving is 0. Please drink legally and responsibly.

— Brianna Trabucco
Hoisting One to Newspapers

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Editor in Chief

Last weekend I was shopping for groceries at the Plais-tow, N.H., Market Basket. Right by the beer and wine aisles stood a young woman who was marketing and facilitating a beer tasting for a new beer on the shelves — Batch 19, made by the same company that brews Coors and Coors Light.

Batch 19, as advertised, stems from a recipe that dates back to 1919 — the Prohibition era. The recipe was found recently during a flood in the basement, or so the young lady handing out samples told me.

The beer, which tastes like a cross between a Sam Adams and an Ams-tel Light, was very good, and happened to be selling quite well at this location.

I write this not to critique the taste of full-bodied ale, but the way it was marketed. Batch 19 is intended to “attract consumers to a true, authentic, original beer.” It was adver-tised on a piece of thick paper intended to look like an old newspaper. I was immediately drawn to this unique adver-tisement, mainly for the company’s use of the newspaper style to advertise its beer.

The use of the newspaper as an advertisement is clear. It is an attempt to date the beer, as well as date the avenue of advertisement. The use of a faux black and white newspaper juxtaposed with the beer is intended to evoke a nostalgic and traditional feel. With print news being pushed out by digital subscriptions and online media, Coors is tapping into a phe-nomenon by playing on the archaic feel that newspapers are acquiring, and applying it to the marketing of this beer.

Is Coors helping to seal the fate of print news with this ad? Promoting the perception of newspapers as artifacts from the early 20th century?

What Coors is doing well here is: If you’d hate to see the death of print journalism, you’d drink the beer to feel nos-talgic and hold onto the shreds of old media. And if you have accepted the fact that print journalism is a thing of the past, you’d drink to that.

As someone addicted to the black ink stains on my hands that come from newsprint, I still understand the growing impor-tance of new media. If I drink Batch 19, I’ll drink to the life of print journalism instead. And even if I don’t drink Batch 18, I’ll still drink to the life of print journalism.

Modern Day Warrior: Giving Up

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Editor in Chief

Well, it wasn’t easy, but it’s over — for now. What I learned? It’s easier to give things up than I had thought. That qui-et month was the most difficult, not because I have a need to shout rude things at the dinner table, but because it’s not easy to take things from my life, it’s adding something. Not peeking at my phone during class, not poking fun at a friend, and keeping my language under control in tense moments wasn’t always easy. And not being sarcastic either — that’s where the true test came in. The re-sults of this experiment are as follows: 1) I am very reliant on technology to com-municate, 2) meat and potatoes isn’t so good with just the potatoes, 3) people are obnoxious when they are drunk and you are not, and 4) etiquette isn’t just about keeping your elbows off the table.

I had a blast with this experiment, and I appreci-ate all the support I was given. I have shared with you a compilation of what I thought were the “best of” posts for the Modern Day Warrior.

Post 2: Denying the Flesh

The first week is going better than ex-pected, really. I haven’t noticed it all that much. While my carnivorous room-mates crack jokes about what kind of meats await them at lunch, I really haven’t missed meat — yet. I have sur-prised myself in the kitchen, too. The first day as a vegetarian I made pasta with garlic and olive oil with cherry tomatoes, a very good dish. I have made some decent omelets, and a ton of grilled cheeses.

My weight has stayed the same, which pleases me, but I am now realizing I need to get more protein, so I have made an ef-fort to eat more peanut butter and yogurt. I’m not the kind of person that can drink glasses of milk, but maybe I will have to start with that. At Sparky’s Place, one can easily find the new vegetarian station. It is in between the sandwich line and salad bar, opposite the soup station. (I am pleased Jay DeGoia, Merrimack Dining’s general manager, has also vowed to be vegetarian during the same time I have vowed to abstain.)

Why be a vegetarian? Let’s define what that is first. A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat. This includes chicken, beef, pork, fish, and any other flesh from an animal. Typically vegetarians allow themselves to eat eggs, cheese, and dairy products. A pescatarian is someone who abstains from eating the flesh of any ani-mal with the exception of fish. Taking things further, vegans don’t eat anything that came from an animal.

Some extreme vegans refuse to wear leather belts or have leather wallets. Peo-ple choose not to consume animals for a variety of reasons. For some, it’s health; they think consuming meat is not good for their bodies. There are environmentalists who believe the amount of water and re-sources used to raise beef could be better utilized, and for that reason, passively ob-ject to the consumption of meat.

And some see the consumption of ani-mals as unethical, saying it is unfair to eat on breathing and living animals, and others have a problem with the way animals are raised with hormones, put through filthy slaughterhouses, and brought to our plates. I have certainly gained a new perspective on what it is like for those who go meatless. It hasn’t been as difficult as I thought.

Post 3: Pizza is the greatest thing in the world

OK, so I have been eating a lot of pizza. Not even that I want to eat it a lot, but it’s always available. You can find it in the cafe at Merrimack, and there’s always a pizza shop around the corner. The Margherita pizza from Bertucci to the Celeste frozen pizza, they all seem to do the trick.

I also eat a lot of chips. Mostly tortilla chips. For some reason I believe these are healthier for me. One roommate re-marked: “oh you’re hungry, and you’re eating chips? What a surprise.”

To find more protein I picked up some beans from Whole Foods. My mother gave me a $50 gift card to Whole Foods; it doesn’t go very far there. I walked away with only two bags filled with organic beans, carrots, tortilla chips and some very tasty guacamole.

I want to use this post to highlight some of my favorite foods I have eaten this month. I have broken it down into two cat-egories: food I have made, and food made for me. To avoid upsetting anyone, I won’t rank the food made for me. Food that I have made:

• pasta with garlic and olive oil and cherry tomatoes;
• Monterey jack quesadilla with toma-toes an jalapeños, with guacamole and tor-tilla chips on the side.

Food made for or brought to me:

• macaroni and cheese with a Ritz cracker topping, with possibly the best salad I have ever had on the side;
• butternut squash ravioli (from Sal’s Restaurant in Lawrence);
• caprese sandwich from Jacob Wirth’s in Boston.

Today I ordered an item for the next phase of the Modern Warrior Project: a used Samsung flip phone. Next month I will be giving up my iPhone, Facebook and Twitter. I ordered the phone in about seven seconds, off my iPhone—something that will not be possible next month.

Post 5: Communication Break-down

I am a week and a half into the second phase of the Modern Day Warrior project — depriving myself of my iPhone and so-cial media. Social media includes my Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn ac-counts, the three social media venues in which I participate; I have also locked up my Beacon-issued iPad, just to make sure I don’t get off too early. Initially I thought the limited access to email was going to be tough. I get a slew of emails every day, and have four different accounts I check on my phone throughout the day.

People are used to me checking my email so frequently, because I reply quickly. If I am however not has been so bad — in fact it is nice to be away from email for a little while. What is tough is
Roger McCormack '14
Staff Writer

The sequester – across-the-board spending cuts to a slew of government programs that took effect March 1 – ostensibly continues the United States’ bleak economic prognosis. In addition, it essentially functional Congress that was unable to agree on reasonable cuts to government spending that would have been considered reasonable.

The phenomenon rests on a backup plan con-
gressional leaders devised in 2011, to ensure that a bipartisan debt commission didn’t fail to deliver on its goals of deficit reduction. That plan failed. Congress will now oversee the cutting of teaching positions and the furloughing of prison and civilian Pentagon workers, coupled with the expiration of various other governmental em-
ployees. The cuts will remove $85 billion in gov-
ernment spending in 2013 and eliminate an estimated 700,000 jobs. Cumulative spend-
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Dan Curran Named Football Head Coach

Terence Barclay ’13
Staff Writer

Merrimack football offensive coordinator Dan Curran has been promoted to head coach, interim director of athletics Dean O’Keefe announced.

Curran becomes the fifth head coach of the Merrimack football program after spending the last three seasons as the Warriors’ offensive coordinator. “After conducting a national search that brought many qualified candidates, it was clear the best person to lead our program was already right here in North Andover,” said O’Keefe. Curran is replacing John Perry, who retired to take an offensive assistant position at Division I Delaware after five seasons as Merrimack’s head coach.

Curran’s prolific offense led the Northeast-10 Conference in total offense the last three seasons and also led the country in passing offense this season with 399.2 passing yards per game. Under Curran’s tutelage, the Warriors received the two major NE-10 offensive awards this season as starting quarterback Joe Clancy was named Offensive Player of the Year while senior receiver Isaiah Voegeli was named Most Valuable Player after the greatest receiving season in school history.

Curran also gave Merrimack alums Shawn Loiseau, Tony Johnson and James Suozzo guidance in their attempts to make the professional ranks as each player received an NFL training camp offer following their senior seasons. Loiseau is currently under contract with the Indianapolis Colts for the 2013 NFL season.

“I am honored and excited to become the next head football coach at Merrimack College,” said Curran. Curran came to Merrimack after playing eight years of professional football which included time spent with the Seattle Seahawks and New Orleans Saints of the NFL as well as the New Orleans Voodoo and Georgia Force of the Arena Football League.

Jenn Pino, defensive captain. Photo Courtesy Merrimack Athletics

Laxwomen Hoping to Bounce Back in ’13

Andrew Hurd ’13
Staff Writer

Following a playoff loss to end the 2012 season, the Merrimack Warriors Women’s Lacrosse team is looking to bounce back and have a great spring.

The team finished 7-9 overall last season but posted a 7-5 record in the NE-10 conference. The Laxwomen lost their first game last Saturday against Assumption, 16-11, but have an important home game on the 9th versus Le Moyne.

Senior Nicole Moran is excited about the upcoming season and believes that this season will be different from a difficult 2012 season. “After conducting a national search that brought many qualified candidates, it was clear the best person to lead our program was already right here in North Andover,” said O’Keefe. Curran is replacing John Perry, who retired to take an offensive assistant position at Division I Delaware after five seasons as Merrimack’s head coach. Curran’s prolific offense led the Northeast-10 Conference in total offense the last three seasons and also led the country in passing offense this season with 399.2 passing yards per game. Under Curran’s tutelage, the Warriors received the two major NE-10 offensive awards this season as starting quarterback Joe Clancy was named Offensive Player of the Year while senior receiver Isaiah Voegeli was named Most Valuable Player after the greatest receiving season in school history. Curran also gave Merrimack alums Shawn Loiseau, Tony Johnson and James Suozzo guidance in their attempts to make the professional ranks as each player received an NFL training camp offer following their senior seasons. Loiseau is currently under contract with the Indianapolis Colts for the 2013 NFL season.

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Men’s Hoops Season Comes to a Close

Helen Gillis ’13
Staff Writer

The Merrimack Men’s Basketball team ended their season with a close game with Franklin Pierce on Feb. 26. The final score was 69-62, with the Warriors trumping the Ravens.

The high scorer for the Warriors was freshman guard J.T. Strickland, who scored 20 points. Senior forward Mike Clifford put up 18 points and 13 rebounds. The high scorer for the Ravens was Ellis Cooper, with 20 points and nine rebounds.

The team will finish their season with a record of 12-15 overall and 9-13 in the NE-10 conference. With the end of the season, the Warriors will be losing three senior forwards.

Tyler Young of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mike Clifford of Danvers, Mass., and Adam Marshall from Kent, England, are expected to graduate in June.

Young finished his final season with 240 points, 212 rebounds, and started 26 out of 27 games. Clifford had a season total of 438 points, 234 rebounds, and started all 27 games played. Marshall totaled up 28 points, 18 rebounds, and seeing time in 13 games.

Sophomore guard Travonne Berry-Rogers shared his thoughts on how the team played this season.

“This season was one for the books according to the many trials and tribulations we had to go through,” he said.

“From losing streaks to injuries, to close wins and tough losses, our team showed a lot of fight and togetherness at times when many people counted us out.”

Berry-Rogers said he is optimistic about Merrimack’s chances next year.

“Every game, every practice was a chemistry builder which we began to gather strongly towards the end of the season but unfortunately we came up short for playoffs,” he said.

“Next year we’ll be back with a vengeance.”

Join the discussion ... www.merrimacknewspaper.com
**WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Alan Pastyrnak: Baseball**

**Brianna Trabucco ’13  
Staff Writer**

After transferring from Northeastern University following the 2011 season, Alan Pastyrnak Jr.’s first season as a Warrior was a success. The Bristol, Conn., native appeared in 40 games with 39 starts, and ended with a .266 average. Pastyrnak tallied up eight doubles, one triple, and one home run, totaling 17 RBIs. A newly named captain for the upcoming 2013 team, Pastyrnak is getting his team ready for a run at the Northeast-10 Championship.

Not only does Pastyrnak thrive on the baseball field, he’s a standout in the classroom. The Mass Communication major is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Honor Society of the National Communication Association. Members of Lambda Pi Eta must acquire a GPA of 3.25 or higher and Pastyrnak soars beyond that requirement.

So far the baseball team’s senior leadership and hard work in the offseason has set them in the right direction with a 3-1 record. The Warriors are looking to build on last year’s 17-win campaign. With more experience and confidence, Merrimack has hopes of returning to the Northeast-10 Conference Championships for the first time since the 2010 season.

The Warriors will grab their boarding passes and head to Florida for a seven-game stretch over four days. Merrimack opens with a double-header against Concordia Saturday.

Q: What is your walk-up song?  
A: My walk-up song last year was “Space Jam” but because of my wicked good friend Jamie Spano, you will likely hear a Rihanna song this season when I step into the box.

Q: Who is your favorite professional athlete?  
A: Definitely a hometown kid, Aaron Hernandez for the New England Patriots.

Q: How is this season going to be different from the last seasons?  
A: This season is going to be different from last season in regards to our leadership and experience. This season we have many more seniors, the senior leadership will help this team stay on track throughout the season so we don’t have a losing streak like we had last year.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals?  
A: Before each game I kneel in the outfield and say a prayer to myself.

Q: What personal goals do you have this season?  
A: This being my last season to play for the Warriors, my only goal is to be able to celebrate on the field with my teammates when we clinch a spot in the NE-10 playoffs.

Q: Describe your thoughts on the upcoming season?  
A: So far we have had a good start being 3-1 in this young 2013 season. The hard work we have put in during the fall and winter not only on the diamond with Coach Martin and the coaching staff, but also with Coach McGuire and Coach Kamal in the weight room will lead us to the season we hope for which is making the NE-10 playoffs.

Q: What do you want to do after college?  
A: I would love to continue my baseball career professionally playing in the minor leagues or overseas somewhere.

Q: If you could play for any MLB team who would it be?  
A: I was lucky and fortunate to grow up in a family of die hard Red Sox fans. So if I could play for any team in the MLB it would definitely be the Boston Red Sox.
After playing themselves back into the national conversation, including a brief stint perched atop the Hockey East Standings, the Merrimack Ice Hockey team has fallen back to earth. Following an 8-2-1 stretch that catapulted the Warriors back onto the verge of the NCAA tournament, capped by a dramatic 2-1 overtime victory at home against Boston College, Merrimack went 0-4-1 over its next five games, effectively ending their chances of an at-large bid to get into the NCAA Tournament.

There are two ways to get into the NCAA Ice Hockey Tournament, which consists of only 16 teams – either win your conference tournament in March, or position yourself as one of the 11 other teams worthy enough to get in. The determining factor for those at-large bids is measured and ranked on a scale called the PairWise Rankings, essentially an advanced statistic that looks at your strength of schedule, your record, your opponents’ records, and compares everyone against common opponents to see who comes out on top, regarding “PCWs”, or PairWise Comparison Wins, to every team you’re better than.

Following that victory over BC on Feb. 15, Merrimack was tied for 17th place barely on the outside looking in for an at-large bid, though they stood atop Hockey East and were in position for a home playoff series in the conference tournament. Then their season started to unravel.

That Sunday they went down to Providence and tied the Friars, while also losing sophomore forward Clayton Jardine likely for the season with a fractured tibia plateau. Then, after a week off, played BC again at home the following Sunday, this time losing in overtime by the same 2-1 margin they had won before. The loss was crippling for Merrimack in the PairWise, who dropped to 24th.

The team followed with a Tuesday loss at Boston University, 5-2, a Friday night loss at UMass-Lowell 4-0, and a Sunday afternoon loss at home to Lowell again, 3-1.

Merrimack currently stands in at 32nd in the PairWise out of 33 eligible teams, have fallen out of the USCHO.com Rankings, and sit in sixth place in Hockey East, six points out of first with two games to play. They cannot drop lower than sixth, but if the season were to end today, Merrimack would have to win two out of three games at Boston College to advance out of the Hockey East Quarterfinals.

Merrimack’s biggest problems this season have revolved around consistency and offense. The team had seemingly finally found the chemistry they needed, but following the injury to Jardine, a scramble to keep the chemistry ensued. Freshman John Gustafsson received the immediate spot, although several changes have been made since Tuesday’s game at BU saw some new combinations on the Power Play, but mostly everything else was the same. After junior goaltender Sam Marotta, who had seemingly won the starting job, allowed three first period goals, he was pulled in favor of sophomore Rasmus Tirronen.

Marotta started the next game Friday against Lowell, but Tirronen was awarded the start Sunday, his first since Jan. 11.

Also included in the lineup changes were the absence of familiar faces of freshman Brian Christie and sophomore Josh Myers. Christie had played every game since opening night. Senior Brandon Brodhag got was inserted on the second line, the first game he’s received since Dec. 29 against Princeton.

If there’s one thing we know about this team, it’s that they aren’t an offensive powerhouse. Sure, they can score in bunches, but it’s not their forte. They’re a defense-first team that frustrates teams with their shot blocking, penalty killing (they had killed 35 straight before allowing a PP Goal Sunday), and deep goaltending.

When asked about his offense, coach Mark Dennehy insisted he isn’t worried. When asked if he would comment on the lineup changes after Sunday’s loss, he simply replied, “No. You have to ask the question, but no I won’t comment on that.”

Merrimack has a home-and-home series with UMass this weekend, with Friday’s game at home and Saturday’s game in Amherst. At this point, it statistically doesn’t really matter what they do with those two games, because they’ll very likely have to win the Hockey East Tournament to regain the ground they’ve lost in the last two weeks.

In an interview with ESPN NH, Dennehy cited one of his favorite books titled Golf Is Not A Game Of Perfect in which its author states a simple theory: “If you can hit the ball 250 yards down the middle of the fairway once, the only thing stopping you from doing it again is mental, not physical.

“If we can play to that level that we played (previously), then there’s only one thing stopping us from doing that all the time, and that’s ourselves,” he said.

Let’s just hope these last two weeks have been a mulligan for the Warriors and once the Hockey East Tournament they find themselves back on the fairway.

Warrior Sam Marotta was named Hockey East Stop It Goaltender of the Month for February.

By Patrick Bradley ‘14
Staff Writer

Hopefully a Mulligan for MC Hockey