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Merrimack College

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# The Beacon

Vol. XII Number 7

Tuesday, February 21, 2014

www.merrimacknewspaper.com

## Andover's Own Olympic Star: Annalisa Drew

Ashley Yenick '14  
Copy Editor

Hailing from Andover, 20-year-old Annalisa Drew is an Olympian on Team USA at the

out she fell in love with the lifestyle and has been doing it ever since."

According to Drew's Blog, The Ski Adventures of Annalisa Drew, Freestyle Skiing wasn't

(Drew's Blog).

After her freshman year of high school, Annalisa decided she wanted to pursue skiing on a deeper level. She and her parents decided that she'd benefit from the New Hampton School, a boarding school in New Hampshire that enabled Drew to ski every day after school through the Waterville Valley Program. Drew's senior year proved to be her greatest year yet. She won the Nor-AM and received her first invite to a world cup that took place in La Plange, France, where she received her first Dew tour invite the next season where she placed fourth (Drew's Blog).

After her commitment to move out west, Drew moved to Vail, Colorado to train with her

See OLYMPICS

Continued on Page



Olympian Annalisa Drew, sister of Nick Drew '13.

2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. This is Drew's Olympic debut, as she will be competing in the Women's Freeski Halfpipe event. Merrimack alum, Nick Drew discussed his sister's success as a Freeskier. He revealed that Annalisa had gotten involved with skiing since she was younger, but it wasn't until high school when she started to get involved with Freestyle Skiing: "She was persuaded by our cousins, the Finn family to get involved with freestyle, and so she joined the Loon Mountain Freestyle Team. From there on

Drew's first Olympic dream. In fact, her dream was to be a figure skater. From her toddler years to a sophomore in high school, Drew's passion was figure skating. In middle school, Drew would skate about three to four hours a day, and the jumping and spinning aspect of figure skating began to be her favorite part of skating. Even though Drew almost completed into a professional stature, she believed that figure skating didn't fit her personality and Free Skiing was a better sport that fit her style and personality



John Hancock Building,  
North Andover

## Sak Namesake Dies at 95

Funeral services will be held February 21 in Methuen for the North Andover businessman and inventor whose name graces Merrimack's student center.

Anthony "Tony" Sakowich, who died on Valentine's Day at age 95, was a successful entrepreneur who patented a process to mold laminated counter-tops and then manufactured them in North Andover, selling them nationally through Sears and other retailers.

He and his wife, Gladys, to whom he

was married for 58 years, devoted much of their wealth to philanthropy, especially focused on young people.

In addition to providing funds to Merrimack for the "Sak," the Sakowiches supported the Boys and Girls Club in Laconia, N.H., near their summer home, and the Boys and Girls Club in Lawrence, and donated nine acres in Andover to the Andover Village Improvement Society for recreation space.



### SPORTS

Time is Now  
for Women's Hoops

Page 7

## MPB to Unveil Spring Concert Performer

Schuyler Watkins '14  
Associate Editor-in-Chief

The time has come once again, when the Merrimack Planning Board reveals the band they have chosen for the annual spring concert. The results were received, but will Merrimack host another country star? Or has the MPB gone down a different route?

Don't be surprised if a country music musician won't be joining us this year. Merrimack Planning Board goes through a lengthy process when it comes to deciding which musician will be the main event of Spring Weekend. After the board receives the results, they decide if the winning genre will be the definite choice. Once at a conclusion for genre, the next action is to obtain a list of possible options within the designated price range. The list is quickly narrowed down once the board is made aware of just how expensive some bands are. Bids are made for preferred performers and then it's the waiting game from there. The MPB distinguishes which band that accepts the bid will be a sell-out concert for Merrimack College and the surrounding community.

The past three years have been a roller coaster of ticket sales for the concerts. Ludacris was a flop-not even half the tickets available were sold. Girl Talk brought in more people than Ludacris, but still didn't make enough of an impact. The Band Perry, however, was a sell-out, allowing the MPB to be flexible with their band choice this year.

In just a few hours, the campus won't have to wait any longer. The spring concert performer will be revealed directly after the home hockey game in Lawler Arena, the same location we will see the show in just two short months.

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Questions on the Quad

By Lance Hill '15  
How did you spend your snow day?



Julie Caccavaro '14  
Drake or J. Cole



Jourdan Milardo, Madison Cornell and Kaitlyn Magnano '17  
Luke Bryan



Jason Phan '17  
Jensen Ackles



Francesco Quinci '15  
Rascal Flatts



Kelly Vaillancourt '15  
The Beatles



Poline Chhor '14  
Avicii

Police Log

2/6/14	AC request an officer assistance with a suspicious odor in area of Ash	officer for unknown man who is sitting in the lounge area. Man escorted off campus, trespass in hand
2/8/14	Alcohol assessment in Dracut Townhouse common room. Request ambulance for 19 year old resident who is vomiting but conscious	RA from Monican calls Police Services for a suspicious odor.
2/9/14	Campus center calls Police Services requesting	Ash reports a green laser light being shined into a residential room.
2/10/14		

Joke of The Week

So, there was this guy fishing and he was having a great day. He had a couple of tubs of nice trout sitting on the bank when the warden came by. "Nice catch. Not only would that be way over the limit, but this isn't even trout season"

The old fisherman says "Why officer, I'm not fishing. I didn't catch these. These here are pet fish. I'm just taking them out for some exercise. This here line is their leash. But they're pretty well trained. They come when I call them"

The warden scoffed "You expect me to believe that!? This is going to cost you big time -- one count for each fish."

The fisherman said "Sure. I can show you. If I let them loose they'll come right back to me."

The Warden replies "You show me that and I won't even write you a ticket."

The old guy gets up and dumps both tubs of fish in the water and they swim away. After a couple of minutes the warden demands

"OK. Let's see you call them back."

The old guy says "What do you mean call them back?"

The warden says "Call the fish back!"

The old man looks slowly around left and right and then says "What fish?"

Mack Tweets

@maherty29  
Merrimack really should develop a better snow removal plan. This is ridiculous. #30minutewait

@Emec22  
Bring on Canada

@choochciullo  
Motha nature you just ain't positive

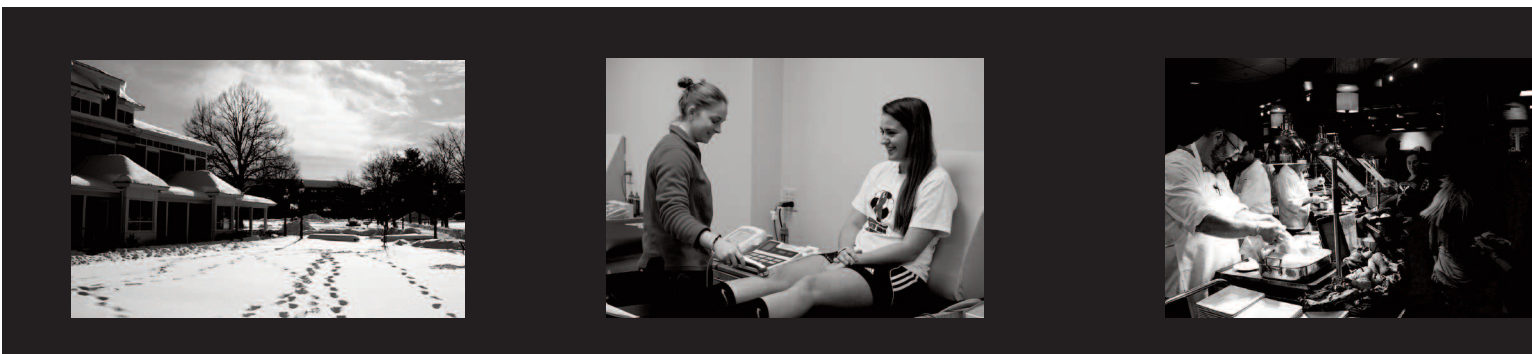
@Hey\_Marcarena  
Beyonce can do anything you can do better

@sayitaintTON  
Some guy just pronounced Murray Lounge 'Murre Lounge' and I almost lost it.

@Gregglistkilla  
I cant even imagine how pissed off @jontaffer would get if he went into the merrimack café

@The\_LuneyBin  
Dear Merrimack, Let's plan out the snow cleanup when it isn't snowing or have it more organized. Sincerely, every student stuck on the lots





# First Lecture: Farrell on Teaching

**By Bridget Gilroy '14**  
*Staff Writer*

On Feb. 25, senior Hannah Farrell will give The First Lecture. The First Lecture presents a student with the opportunity to formally speak to the Merrimack community about what is important to him or her.

**How were you selected to give the First Lecture?**

I was nominated anonymously, and once I accepted my nomination, I was interviewed by Father Ray (Dlugos) and members of SGA. The interview was conversation style, and lasted around 15 minutes.

**What does it mean to you to give the First Lecture?**

First and foremost, I am beyond honored to be the student selected to give this year's first lecture. It is wonderful to be

considered in the same league as those who have spoken in past years as well as the students who received nominations along with myself this year. Other than that, I am also very excited for the opportunity!

**What have you done to prepare for it?**

I began brainstorming anything and everything I thought I would maybe want to talk about. I have kept either a notepad or a pad of sticky notes on me at all times just in case I thought of something that I wanted to add.

**What was the most challenging part?**

I would have to say there is a tie for most challenging aspect. For starters, I am one of the world's biggest procrastinators! Even after four years of college

I still have not been able to rid my life of the all night homework sessions. I have worked extremely hard to make sure that I am prepared to give my speech when 7 p.m. rolls around on Feb. 25. Other than being a procrastinator, I also struggled with making my speech sound like an actual speaking engagement. I am a strong writer, but I have found that there is a huge difference between paper writing and speech writing.

**What do you plan on focusing your speech around?**

My speech will be focused around my biggest passion in life, which is teaching, and how that passion has permanently ingrained itself into every aspect of my life.

**What aspect of the First Lecture are you most ex-**

**cited about?**

I am most excited to have the opportunity to not only share my greatest passion, but also to have the opportunity to explain people why it is my greatest passion. It will also be the first time in 21 years that I will be able to talk at my brothers without interruptions!

**What are you hoping the audience will gain from your speech?**

I hope the audience can gain some sort of insight from my words. Nothing drastic of course, but if one person walks out of Cascia maybe considering something in a way that he or she never has before, then I will have done my job.

This year's First Lecture will be given on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in Cascia Hall.



# What a Whirled

**James Sardella '15**  
*Staff Writer*

As almost all students have noticed by now, there has been a change made to the Warrior's Den in the Sakowich Center. "Warrior Whirled," the new smoothie station, has been a welcomed addition by the student body and has received stellar reviews from those who have made purchases there.

The reasoning behind the installation of this station was that it was actually widely suggested by the student population on the campus dining survey sent out by Sodexo. The general manager of the campus dining office, Michael Newmark, stated, "When we would have smoothies featured in Sparky's Place for smaller events they were always a huge hit. Then when we went over the dining surveys it turned out that a lot of students wanted to see a

smoothie station on campus." "Warrior Whirled" offers a different featured smoothie flavor every day and always has sample cups on display so those who are passing by can see if they like the day's flavor. When asked what they thought of the new smoothie station, student Nick Rampino said, "I think it was a good addition because it adds an option for a healthy snack that also tastes good" and student Thomas Staffier responded, "The smoothies are a great option if you want to grab something refreshing on the go."

A common statement among other students who have purchased smoothies is that "the service is quick, the smoothies are good, and they are a reasonable portion for the price they are offered at, which is \$3.99." "Warrior Whirled" is open between lunch and dinner, from 12pm to 8pm so come on by and see what all the buzz is about.

# Sparky's Serves Up New Options

**Lauren Foster '15**  
*Staff Writer*

As the college continues to grow so does the number of students looking for alternative food options, prompting Sodexo to make changes to its allergen-free sections in Sparky's, including expanding My Zone and establishing Simple Servings.

For any upperclassman who has a food allergy, the changes in Sparky's are obvious. Once-empty shelves in the My Zone fridge now have pizza and pasta, all of which are gluten- and peanut free.

My Zone is a section tucked away in the back of Sparky's. As supplies are limited, this section is reserved for those with peanut allergies, gluten intolerance, or Celiacs disease. It also includes lactose free options.

According to Michael Newmark, dining general manager, the Simple Servings station is an expansion of My Zone. "It is open to any students and has healthy options for anyone. It still remains free of the seven most common allergens: peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, wheat, soy, milk products, and eggs."

Newmark said that Simple Servings provides a place for students with food allergies to eat a hot option, opposed to just eating from My Zone. These changes are due in large part to the recent hiring of Kerry Cameron, the campus dietician, who joined Sodexo in August 2013. Newmark said Cameron has organized focus groups at least once a semester to get feedback on the alternative options, as well as Sodexo's allergen-free services. "Kerry even goes into dorms a couple of times a semester to talk with students. We try to keep an open flow of communication with students, based on their allergy needs and requests," he said.

Megan Ackerman, a first-year student with a gluten intolerance, has also noticed the changes in

**See ALTERNATIVES**  
*Continued on Page 4*

School News



# MC Hosts Night of A Capella

**Matthew Kent '15**  
*Staff Writer*

On Saturday Feb. 1, Mackapella hosted its biggest show of the year at the Rogers Center. The group's annual Night of A Capella is a show for which big name a capella groups come to perform and Mackapella gets the privilege of opening for them.

A group called "North Shore" from NBC's prime time show "The Sing Off" has performed at the venue in the past, giving the event a reputation for showcasing good talent. "Boston Jazz Voices" and "Fermata Town" are two of the big-name groups that are known to perform year after year at the venue. Mackapella opened with four songs including "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars, "Royals" by Lorde, "Hallelujah," and "Under Pressure" by Queen.

Lisa Vassallo, a junior at Merrimack and former vice president of the group, said the performance seemed to go without a hitch. She said everything went as planned and the group was very happy with their performance. She said it felt good to perform well for their biggest show of the year especially in the presence of well-known a capella groups.

The group now looks ahead to their next big show of the year where Mackapella will perform at Relay For Life at Merrimack on March 9. The group has done this in the past and looks forward to having another good performance.

# ASB: Traveling to Help Out

**Mary Unis '14**  
*Staff Writer*

The Grace J. Palmisano Center for Campus Ministry at Merrimack has created an incredible opportunity for students and staff members alike. The Alternative Spring Break program has grown in popularity over the last few years. "ASB", as most Merrimack students would refer to it as, offers the opportunity to travel and provide service to those in need. Rooted in the Augustinian heritage, ASB allows students to give back in a variety of ways during their time in college.

This spring, the members of ASB will be travelling to different states around the country to volunteer their time. A handful of students were selected to spend their spring break in Virginia, Kentucky, Washington D.C., New Jersey, Maryland and New York. Each location will have a different agenda, but will all have the same outcome: giving back.

Sophomore Annie McDonnell has dedicated a large portion of her time at Merrimack to service. Annie now works in the Campus Ministry Office and has already participated in two service trips to Washington D.C. and West Virginia. This Spring she will be taking her third road trip in the infamous Merrimack van to a new destination; Kentucky. There she will spend her time living "simply" with limited access to water and much of the norms the Western Culture has become accustomed to. "I think that ASB is always one of the best weeks of the year. It is an enlightening way to spend your spring break, because it is an experience you can't really have anywhere else."

These experiences have motivated Annie to travel outside her comfort zone and explore new obstacles that reside beyond the United States. So what's next for Annie after Kentucky this spring? Her answer:

Ecuador. This summer, eight Merrimack students and two staff members will travel to Rostro de Cristo in Ecuador for a week of service. There, they will be completely immersed in the culture of the communities surrounding Guayaquil, Ecuador. They will follow local volunteers each day, live as they live and learn their stories while providing service to those in needs. Annie is thrilled about this opportunity, stating; "It is a unique opportunity because it is all about solidarity with others as most of us have come from such a privileged background in comparison to the rest of the world."

Merrimack continues to expand the number of service trips they offer. As these trips grow in popularity, new sites and locations have been added. If you wish to gain more insight on the service trips like ASB, Campus Ministry is located on the third floor of the Sakowich Center and is open to all students.

# Alternatives Available at Sparky's

**Alternatives**  
*Continued from Page 3*

Sodexo. "I think they've done a good job from even the beginning of the year. They've set more standards in place to be better at gluten free. I know Merrimack is better for gluten free options. Many schools do not even have gluten free menus available for students."

Cameron meets with students on a daily basis who have concerns or questions about food options on campus. "I give tours of Sparky's and work one-

on-one with students to make sure they have food to eat, regardless of dietary restrictions." Cameron said chefs in Sparky's will prepare individualized meals if there are requests made ahead of time.

Asked what additions she would like to see in the future, Erika Campbell, a sophomore who is gluten free, said, "I would like there to be more gluten-free options, and to have the Den, and Sparky's stocked with more gluten-free foods."

Since she has arrived on campus, Cameron has worked with students and Newmark to add more Amy's products, an organic company that offers foods such as macaroni and cheese and chicken pot pie.

There have been many new changes, but they have stirred up mixed reviews. One issue has been cross-contamination. Campbell said, "I have had some issues with staff members not understanding what gluten is, or what foods it is in, however Kerry is working on

teaching the staff more about allergies, and what foods are OK to eat."

Newmark said Sodexo has been putting an emphasis on training with back-of-house staff on cross-contamination and using separate utensils, all influenced by Cameron.

Even Ackerman has noted Cameron's success. "Kerry's really good at what she does. She really cares for the gluten-free kids. I've talked to people who were here last year and they've noticed that there's been a lot done."





# TO US

## Look for our dining survey starting March 3rd!

Surveys will be sent to your Merrimack Email

*For every survey completed there will be a \$1 Donation to Sodexo Foundation supporting the Stop Hunger Initiative up to \$150.00*



Snap this QR code to take our survey!



<http://vcil.cc/0yxtcm>



# 5 Things to Do in North Andover

Alexandria Kasper '14  
Staff Writer

1. Explore the Area- Merrimack College is in the perfect location; we are in the center of everything. If your not familiar with the Boston area (and even if you are), take the train in and spend an afternoon exploring the city. While there is still snow on the ground, take advantage of how close we are to several slopes! Don't feel like traveling far? Downtown Andover is one minute away and a great place to shop and eat. Get to know your college town!
2. Go to a Sporting Event- Beautiful weather is right around the corner (though it might not seem like it). Springtime is the perfect time to check out a lacrosse, baseball or softball game! There is still time to go to a basketball or hockey

- game too! Get out there and support your fellow Warriors!
3. Attend a Guest Lecture- Merrimack frequently brings many interesting speakers to campus. Take advantage of it! Orange is the New Black fans - Piper Kerman, author of the book which inspired the series, will be speaking on March 26! It is free and open to all.
4. Get Active- (And running to class does not count). Take a Zumba or Body Pump class in the gym. Looking for a change of scenery? Pure Barre on Turnpike



Pure Barre: working it out

Street in North Andover is the perfect place for girls to get a great workout -beware, its addicting! In that same plaza is the newly opened, Title Boxing.

5. Seniors- Figure Out Post-Grad Plans -Graduation is in LESS than 100 days! Before all the fun starts (senior formal, senior week, graduation festivities) it is important to have your after college plans figured out. Visit career services if you have questions regarding the job search. Sophomores and Juniors - start looking for internships!

# Rob Suspect Passed Out in Ceiling

Evan Mercier '14  
Staff Writer

Early last week many customers of the Richdale Convenience Store were greeted with a boarded-up front door and window, just to find out some interesting news.

Around 12:40 p.m. the night prior there had been a break in; many thought the perpetrator was long gone, only to find out a suspect was unconscious in the ceiling right after the burglary.

Yes, unconscious in the ceiling.

The 26-year-old allegedly gained access to the store by smashing the front door, began to steal lottery tickets and then proceeded to hide in the ceiling to elude incoming police officers. The man was unresponsive and allegedly so intoxicated that authorities originally believed he was deceased. Authorities also feared his entanglement in electrical wires, which strung through the ceiling, which worried them that he had been electrocuted.

The storm was not in the suspect's favor; they traced his footprints to the front of the store from a nearby house to understand the entirety of what happened. Police said stealth didn't seem to be the 26-year-old's main priority, nor was re-enacting "Oceans 14." The man was later taken to Lawrence General Hospital to be checked out and arraigned Monday Feb. 10 on several charges, including breaking and entering as well as larceny.

# Andover Woman in Olympics

## OLYMPICS

Continued from Page 1

coach Elana Chase. Since moving to Colorado, Drew has competed in Freeski Halfpipe events at the US Grand Prix, Dew Tour, and the X Games. Right now, Drew is ranked 8th in the world for Halfpipe Skiing

(Drew's Blog). Not only is she ranked 8th in the world, her brother Nick tells us from his interview that she's the first woman ever to include a 1260 trick in a competition!

For seven years so far, Drew has had amazing achievements, and now she can add being an Olympian to the list!

Nick said the whole family will be in attendance to watch his sister compete: "...my family which includes me, my younger brother, youngest sister, mom, dad, and two grandparents are traveling out Monday afternoon to watch her compete. It's the first time her event has ever been in the Olympics"

(Nick Drew Interview). Annalisa competed on Thursday, February 20th, for the first time ever in the Women's Freestyle Ski Halfpipe event. Good Luck to Annalisa and Team USA!

You can check out Annalisa Drew's personal blog here: <http://annadrewski.wordpress.com/>

# MC Speaker Logan Set to Return to '60 Minutes'

Elizabeth Fitzgerald '15  
Staff Writer

Fired, and now rehired. CBS News Correspondent Lara Logan is set to return to "60 Minutes" after being asked to take a leave of absence. Logan, who spoke at Merrimack in late October, used a "discredited source" for her "60 Minutes" story on the Benghazi attack.

Weeks before her appearance at Merrimack, Logan had given a false report about a terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, on the typically reliable CBS show, "60 Minutes." Logan had reported the events that Dylan Davies had seen first handedly in Libya. Davies is now an ex-security contractor for the state department in Benghazi, Libya. Further reports from the FBI proved that Davies was nowhere near the scene in which he claimed to be at. The episode that aired explained that Davies had witnessed the terrorist attack in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans back in September 2012. Four days after the October episode aired, the false reports became public and Logan and her producer took the heat.

After the reports of false information had surfaced about the Benghazi attacks, Logan took to CBS' "This Morning" and publicly apologized.

"Today the truth is we made a mistake and that's very disappointing as

a journalist," she said. "It's very disappointing for me."

In mid December 2013, speculations of Logan returning had surfaced and reportedly had been set to return to the station in early 2014. Though an exact date had not been specified, Kevin Tedesco, the spokesperson for "60 Minutes," said, "Lara Logan's return has not been scheduled. Beyond that, we do not comment on speculation." Though viewers and press are still waiting on her comeback, it's safe to assume it is on the horizon.

When Logan came to Merrimack and spoke to the MC community about her experience as a traveling journalist, she explained that many times found herself in war zones. As one could imagine, this is a dangerous environment for anyone to be in, and that's exactly what it was. On Logan's visit, she shared the personal story of how she was attacked in Cairo's Tahrir Square in Egypt. She was sent to report on a mob that had been formed of more than 100,000 people. As a previous issue of The Beacon had covered, as Logan "tried to focus on the camera and deliver a story, members of the crowd turned to her and sexually assaulted her." This had been a traumatizing experience for her and on her career. Though her career seems as though it has obviously been up and down, it seems as though with her projected return things are turning around for Logan.



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# Scorsese’s ‘Wolf’ a Modern Classic

Tiafan Chen '16  
Staff Writer

The movie *The Wolf of Wall Street* is one of the best movies I have watched recently. This movie was rewritten from the autobiography of a famous stockbroker on Wall Street, a man named Jordan Belfort. *The Wolf of Wall Street* is not like the traditional crime movies that give you the traditional moral endings; there are no moral standards in this movie. It focuses on the details of the crimes and the extravagant lifestyle that Jordan Belfort and his stockbrokers had. It is a fest of money

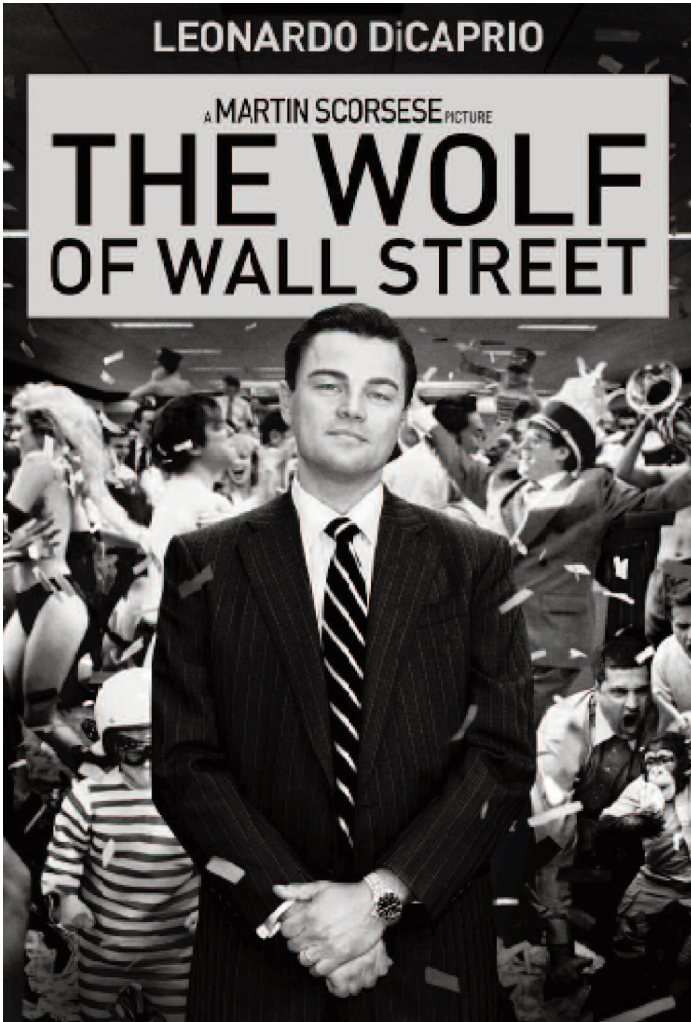
propagate from the beginning of Belfort's plan, but if you think about how the characters' destiny changed overtime, he wasn't criticized but sarcastic throughout the entire movie.

Jordan Belfort is portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio, and starts his career out as a stockbroker from Wall Street. Simply put, Belfort is a wolf who is hungry for money, and ready to make it as a big stockbroker on Wall Street. Belfort is addicted to having money and getting call girls

that it consumes his entire life. In the beginning of the movie, he talks to the audience directly to the camera very confidently states what he's doing with his life, as he casually uses a hundred dollar bill to roll some cocaine. This symbol of Belfort taking part in doing cocaine is very obvious. On Wall Street, money is like drug and it will get you addicted. When the camera shoots to an FBI agent whom refused to take any bribes from Belfort, he happens to be reading a newspaper that said Jordan Belfort was in prison. People in the movie have no reaction to Belfort being in jail and the next scenes seem to tell us that no one really cares about Belfort and meanwhile he was in a prison uniform playing tennis. Although Belfort's time on Wall Street working as a stockbroker was short-lived, he still managed to rake in a ton of money on his own and created his own company. Even after prison, Belfort began teaching people how to be rich, wrote books and gave speeches all over the world. It doesn't seem that bad to get addicted to money.

People remember most of the movie contains many sex and drug

scenes. Most of the sex and drug scenes were created in slow motion, and most of the time doesn't include Belfort himself. It is more like a visual carnival. The question is, are all of those scenes really necessary? The sex scenes with full disclosure, the extravagant lifestyle and the humiliation to people are massive in the movie. People are willing and anxious to know about his way of success he can use the exact same skills selling his way of success just as he sells the stocks. Belfort was notorious for playing mind games with other people, mostly his clients. People believed that he wasn't a



fraud because of the success that he's had with his own company he created called StrattonOakmont. We have heard so many “as long as ..... and we can...” and as soon as we sees an successful example, we will jump right into it.

The director of the movie Martin Scorsese was well known for his gang movies and his meaningful sarcastic style. The new style gang in the movie is *The Wolf of Wall Street*. This whole jungle style money world is what the director really wanted to emphasize. Jordan Belfort is hateful but he is never in a real gang, he is just a smart guy in the game. As long as we are in the times of money representing a man's successes, Belfort's style of success will hold and more and more Jordan Belfort will continually have their markets.

This is a world in which people believe in money, the culprit of the financial crisis: those CEOs who created those poison assets. Don't they seem alike to Jordan Belfort?

I am very certain that this movie is another classic work from Martin Scorsese that deeply reflects the dark side of our era.

# The Meaning of Unemployment Reports

Vince Bellino '15, *Finance Editor*  
Christian Tannous '14, *Staff Writer*

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced on Feb. 7 that unemployment has dropped to 6.6 percent, its lowest level since October 2008. While initially it paints a brighter portrait of the labor market, further analysis proves the statistics to be anything but clear. Much of the deceptiveness can be attributed to how the headline unemployment number is calculated; a process to which it only can make sense of how unemployment can decrease despite consecutive months of sluggish job growth.

The government conducts a monthly sample survey called the Current Population Survey to measure the extent of unemployment in the country. The problems with the current method are it does not consider the workers who quit the job search and it often does not match up with the payroll job counts that comes from a survey of employers.

The new job figures for December and January are 75,000 and 113,000 respectively, which was considerable less than the analyst's expectations of nearly 200,000 per month. If these disappointing numbers seem too small to drop unemployment to a pre-crisis low, it is because they are. A statistic the government will not announce is the civilian labor force participation rate which fell .2 percentage points to 62.8 percent, it is lowest since the late 1970s. As a benchmark, the pre-crisis participation rate was about 66 percent.

As we all will be college graduates soon and enter into the workforce, this number will be of increasing concern. Jobs have become increasingly harder to find as the costs of education have spiraled, leaving many graduates underemployed with massive amounts of debt. All of this should leave you with no worries, however as the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects faster growth for jobs requiring post-secondary education in the next several years. Hopefully their estimates have more bearing than their unemployment statistics.

# Tips for Sparky's

Sean Talbot '15  
Staff Writer

Have you ever walked into the café, looked at the major dishes and made the game-time decision to order takeout? Have you ever walked into the café, starving, did a full lap and leave without consuming a thing? Have you ever resorted to your fourth choice when at the soda machine because none of them worked? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are in fact familiar with Sparky's.

Obviously college cafeterias aren't going to be equivalent to a five-star restaurant. Sodexo runs the cafeterias for major New England colleges. According to their website, in North America alone, the company has \$8.8 billion revenue with 125,000 employees at 9,000 sites. They have 700 facilities management sites and serve more than 15 million consumers daily.

Sodexo can make really good food- don't get me wrong. Catered events at school is where Sodexo presents its best food. You can also discover great food at the Blue Line Club during a hockey game or speaker events where pot roasts and chicken dinners are offered.

Junior Tom Conley stated, “Whenever I step into Sparky's I already know the top 3 choices I might have are a PB&J, grilled cheese, or cereal” Another Junior Hana Block said, “I have never had so many plain bagels with butter in my life”

The school is almost \$50,000 a year; you would think we'd have better food on a day to day basis.

Every day there should be grilled chicken and either chicken patties or chicken nuggets. You can do so many different things with grilled chicken that it is not just healthy for students to consume, but it can also be incorporated into several dishes.

Opinion



# Time is Now for Women’s Basketball

Lance Hill ’15  
Staff Writer

The Merrimack women’s basketball team has faced some tough competition this season. Some games they have overcome adversity resulting in a victory, and others they came up short which lead to a tough defeat.

The team’s overall record is 11-12. When asked about it, sophomore guard Lexi Sells, sophomore center Madison Ward and freshman point guard Michelle Obach gave us the rundown on the team’s record, what makes them mesh, and the game plan for the future matchups.

“We hoped to be in a different position this far into the season but our team has so much potential and we are finally starting to put the pieces together and there is no better time than right now”, Sells said.

“We are all taking it one game at a time to reach our goal and to make playoffs which is most important,” Ward added.

Building off their stride to reach the team’s ultimate goal the players spoke about their specific plans to be successful:

“Our biggest part of what our coach expects us to do is to always come prepared and to come in focused with our set game plan.” Sells added.

“Communication is important because we have to make sure we have each other’s back when someone is missing something. That comes with us being prepared also.” Ward said.

The players also spoke on what make the team mesh from their point of view:

“We are at our best when he have a lot of energy,” Sells said

“We also spend a lot of time off the court with each other as a team, which really helps our relationship on the floor. We know how to support each other,” Ward said

“We get a lot of sparks off our defensive stops,” Obach said.

Obach, Sells, and Ward are three very important pieces to their squad with Obach averaging 69.2 percent from the free throw line, Sells shooting 38.0 percent from the field and Ward with total of 25 rebounds in the paint this season. Obach, the general on the court, sees the floor very well and has a great pull up jumper off the dribble.

Sells is a playmaker and very quick off the dribble. Ward is a big presence down low making it difficult for other centers and a threat inside.



**Top: Aria Johnson waits for the tipoff. Bottom: Johnson, right, and Caitlyn Garger wait for their moment.**  
*Photos by Lance Hill*



The playoffs are in sight for the Warrior-Women’s Basketball: THE TIME IS NOW and they will do whatever it takes to reach their ultimate goal this season.

# Men’s Track Having Another Good Run

Mathew Galvao ’17  
Staff Writer

The men’s track & field team this year has been continuing to have a stellar season so far in the 2014 winter campaign. The Warriors have placed high in recent meets and have even set 10 school records in the process.

Head coach Matt Pimentel feels the team’s season has gone well and they want to just keep improving year to year. He also believes his veteran runners have been crucial to the team’s success.

“The season so far has gone very well. As we have done every year since the program began, we continue to improve significantly from year to year,” said Pimentel. “Our veterans put in the work they needed to in the summer and fall, and our

rookies have been very impressive in their first collegiate season.”

Pimentel also feels the strength and conditioning coaches have been key as the team’s conditioning has reached new levels this season.

“One of the biggest impacts on this season so far has been the work put in with the strength and conditioning coaches. Their efforts have helped our program to drastically improve, leading to a significant number of personal bests and school records broken,” Pimentel said.

With only two seniors on the Warrior’s roster (distance runner Jason LeFavor and middle distance runner Anthony Baccini), they are being greatly relied on for leadership and spreading the winning culture and work ethic throughout the team.

“We only have two seniors this year, so we have relied heavily not

only on those seniors but on all of the upperclassmen from a leadership standpoint,” Pimentel explained. “Our captains have demonstrated leadership both on the track and in the strength and conditioning facility.”

*Coach Pimental says veteran runners have been crucial to the team’s success.*

Throughout the first few meets the Warriors have placed highly, getting three second place finishes in the process. Throughout these meets many Warriors have broken school records and have also gained personal records as well.

Some of the notable runners that have broken school records are junior Sherif Ali who captured the

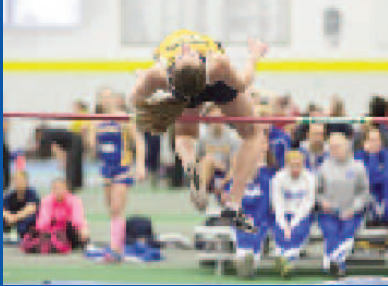
record in the 1000m, sophomore Denzel Livingston in the long jump with a distance of 6.87m, sophomore Taylor Jean-Gilles in the 200m with a time of 22.92, John Spencer in the 55m hurdles, Zachary Lyons in the 300m, and sophomore Adam Ochab in the weight throw.

Throughout all these records coach Matt Pimentel feels that sophomore Taylor Jean-Gilles has been the most surprising runner to date for the Warriors.

“Taylor Jean-Gilles has certainly surprised us. He has emerged as one of the top runners in our program and in the Northeast-10 Conference.”

The Warriors indoor season will be coming to a close in the next few weeks and they will look to make some noise in these final couple of indoor weekends and heading into the outdoor season this spring





# Men's Hoops Fails To Rebound

**Chris Mason '14**  
*Staff Writer*

On Saturday afternoon the Merrimack men's basketball team fell to Assumption by a score of 68-63. The loss was the fifth in a row for the Warriors, 12th in their last 14, and could prove to be a microcosm of the problem that's plagued the team this season.

At first glance it's difficult to figure out why the Warriors are slumping the way that they are. On the season, they have more steals, assists, and a better free throw percentage than their opponents. Not to mention sophomore stand-out Gelvis Solano leads the entire conference with an average of 21.1 points per game.

Yet, somehow, the club finds itself with an 8-15 record, sitting in sixth place in the NE-10's Northeast Division.

These statistics seem puzzling at first, but then you see the rebounding numbers. The Warriors' opponents frequently beat them on the glass, and average more rebounds on both offense and defense than Merrimack. Kevin Reagan and Anthony Barry lead the way for the Warriors, as they both average north of seven boards per contest, but from there the numbers fall off and nobody else on the roster gets even five per game.

When it comes down to it, Merrimack averages 35.3 rebounds per game, while their competitors are close to 41. In Northeast-10 action Merrimack averages 34.5, and that ranks 13th out of the conference's 16 teams.

Overall, the team averages 5.3 fewer rebounds than opponents, and in conference play that number increases to 6.6 less. Both of these margins rank 14th in the Northeast-10, and may go a long way in explaining why the Warriors are struggling.

In their most recent loss to Assumption, the Warriors tallied only 24 rebounds while the Greyhounds racked up 41. Of those Assumption boards, 14 were on the offensive glass to only two for Merrimack, and they accounted for 13 second chance points for Assumption.

In Merrimack's one-point loss at Bentley the week before they were out-rebounded by a whopping margin of 45 to 22, and the Warriors still almost managed to pull off an upset. The contest before that was more of the same story, as Stonehill came down with 43 versus only 26 for Merrimack.

With three games remaining, the Warriors need to win out to qualify for the Northeast-10 conference tournament. The top five seeds advance, and Merrimack (6-12 in conference play), currently sits three games behind Southern New Hampshire for the final playoff spot. That means SNH would have to lose the next three games as well for the Warriors to have any shot.

It'd take a highly improbable run, but not an impossible one. However, if the Warriors want to shock the world and win the battle for the fifth seed, they're going to first have to win the battle on the boards.



**Top: Travonne Berry-Rogers receives a pass.**  
**Bottom: Kevin Regan takes a foul shot.**  
*Photos by Lance Hill*

Sports