A Great Big Disappointment?
Many Plain White T’d Off
Over Picks for Spring Concert
Elizabeth Fitzgerald ’15
Staff Writer

Plain White T’s are opening for A Great Big World as this year’s Spring Concert. Is this another disappointing concert for Merrimack?

Most of us will agree that Spring Weekend is the most anticipated weekend not only of spring semester, but of the entire year. As the Spring Concert takes place the Friday of Spring Weekend, it is expected that the weekend of festivities should start off with a bang.

For the past couple of years, Merrimack seemed to disappoint the student body with concerts that fell below the bar. The under-the-radar team Girl Talk and well known, but mellow, group The Band Perry seemed to do everything but get the campus excited for the weekend ahead.

On Feb. 21, the big reveal for this spring’s concert was made after the men’s hockey game against the University of Vermont. Twitter feeds were flooded with the latest announcement, but by the looks of it, it seems it is another disappointing call by Merrimack.

The band A Great Big World has recently hit radio stations with its song “Say Something,” featuring Christina Aguilera. But aside from that, are there any songs that people actually know of?

Plain White T’s, the singers of “Hey There Delilah,” released the album “All That We Needed” in 2005, and it wasn’t until a few years later until the song actually became a hit. Now, nearly 10 years later, the band is resurfacing before our very eyes — here at Merrimack.

Eric Regan ’17
Staff Writer

On Feb. 25, Merrimack senior Han nah Farrell gave the college’s fifth annual First Lecture.

Majoring in human development with a concentration in early childhood education, Farrell used this opportunity to publicly speak about what truly matters to her: the learning and development of young children.

Speaking to the importance of the development of a person in their early years of life, she stressed how learning has always been her greatest passion. When she discovered the joy of teaching, and helping a person learn something that will benefit them in life, she immediately knew that it was what she wanted to dedicate her skills and talents to, she explained.

During her career at Merrimack, Farrell has shown her propensity for education by spending time as an elementary classroom assistant, as well as a tutor at the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence. Hannah’s credentials also include being class representative for the 2014 Class Council, a member of Theta Phi Alpha sorority, and a member of the Greek life honor society, the Order of Omega.

After Farrell graduates from Merrimack this spring, she plans to attend graduate school to pursue a master’s degree. Eventually, she will make the change from student to teacher, with her first class of kindergarten students.

The First Lecture is given by a student in the same way that the Last Lecture is delivered by a professor. In this speech, the lector strives to express his or her true values and passions at this point in life, as well as to impart some wisdom and advice he or she has learned from experiences thus far that will be guides in achieving their aspirations.

The event, presented by the Omicron Delta Kappa Society and the Office of Mission and Student Affairs, was held in Cascia Hall for an audience of students, faculty, friends, and family.

See CONCERT Continued on Page 5

First Lecturer Farrell Talks Joy of Teaching

Farrell lectures
Photo by Lance Hill
Questions on the Quad

By Lance Hill ’15

What are your Spring Break plans?

Devin Parker ’16
Taking a trip to Florida

Dionys Quezada ’15
Playing in North Carolina

Francesco Quinci ’15
Going on Pellegrinaggio

Makenzi Paluso ’17
Going to California

Megan Keenan ’15
Going to Kentucky for A.S.B.

Tim O’Leary ’15
Going to Montreal

Word Search

Types of Bear

BROWN
BRUIN
KOALA
GRIZZLY
KODIAK
TEDDY

Police Log

Feb. 22, 2:25 a.m. Rogers Center
Three non-students arrested for causing damage to a vehicle in Lot H

Feb. 22, 12:53 a.m. Apartments
Student walking around apartments with open container

Feb. 23, 1:40 a.m.
Two male non-students arrested for disorderly conduct and possession of a dangerous weapon on campus

Feb. 23, 1:42 a.m. Monican
Intoxicated female transported to Lawrence General Hospital by Andover firefighters

Feb. 27, 12:14 a.m.
Student reports money missing from his wallet

March 2, 1:44 a.m. Monican
Student with facial lacerations signs a waiver refusing treatment

Contact Us

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Mack Tweets

Alex Juliano @A.Julzz
Of course the dining hall is all fish because there’s no meat on holy days
#CatholicCollegeProblems

Mar @Hey_MARcarena
There is one million and one ways to sit on a school bus

BoneYard @Steve_Carbone
Snowing again... #WheresSpringBreak

Tad Castle @Tad_Castle
Most would think it’s a low point when the Boston Market guys start recognizing you and make suggestions other than your usual order.

Britttt @Britthagops
Papers are for the birds

Colin Hay @50ShadesOf_CHAY
I will never understand how you people wear jeans to class everyday

Erin @hillea
When you make an effort to look nice for a presentation and they don’t even get to you.........k
Matthew Kent '15  
Staff Writer

After 16 days of intense competition, upsets, and disappointments, the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia have come to a close.

The United States came out second in the medal standings with a total of 28 medals, and fourth in the gold medal count with nine, not too far from Russia who topped the charts with 33 and 13, respectively. The United States added seven silver and 12 bronze medals as well.

The most notable of U.S. achievements in Sochi came in snowboarding, skiing, luge, and ice dancing. U.S. skiers and snowboarders took home a record-tying 17 medals. Sage Kotsenburg took home the first medal of the Olympics and the first ever gold medal in the new event of snowboarding slopestyle despite the Canadian team being a hard favorite. Jamie Anderson took home gold on the women’s side, leading to a U.S. sweep of the event. Americans also took home bronze in the first-ever Olympic men’s ski slopestyle competition, only the third time in history the U.S. have swept an event at the Winter Games.

The U.S. Men’s hockey team took home a notable overtime win over Russia, but failed to medal after losing the semifinal to eventual gold medalist Canada and then the bronze medal game to Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask and Team Finland. The bronze medal loss ended a 13-day medal streak for America.

Merrimack alum Bobby Jay ’88 had a presence in the Olympics as well, serving as assistant coach of the U.S. women’s hockey team, leading them to a respectable silver medal.

Jay played four years of hockey at Merrimack, serving as captain of the team going down as one of the top scoring defensemen in program history.

Another local presence in the Olympics was Andover native Annalisa Drew, sister of Merrimack alum Nick Drew ’13. Making her Olympic debut, she competed in Women’s Freestyle Half-pipe making it to the finals and finishing ninth.

All said and done the United States came out as the king of the bronze with 12 third place finishes. The team did not earn medals in individual figure skating for the first time since 1936, and no medals in speedskating for the first time since 1984. The three most notable winter Olympians — Shaun White, Lindsey Vonn (didn’t compete) and Shani Davis — all came up empty-handed.

Even though some deemed the U.S. performance a disappointment, the Americans still finished second in the medal count and made history in many events.

Rabbi Burton Visotzky presents Merrimack’s 2014 Goldziher Lecture, “From Cairo to Qatar, Oman and Beyond: Jewish-Muslim Dialogue in the U.S. and Internationally,” Wednesday night in Cascia Hall.  
Photo by Lance Hill
You’ve seen it on Groupon and you’ve probably heard about it from a friend—Paint Bar is the new fad sweeping the nation.

Paint Bar gives people the opportunity to be taught step-by-step how to paint a picture by an artist while enjoying a casual drink or two. The average cost to attend one of these events is between $30 and $40. On Saturday March 8, Augie’s will be hosting its very first Paint Bar for only $5.

The idea to host this event came from Catherine Bartolini, one of the co-advisors to the Augie’s Advisory Committee.

“I thought of the idea for the Paint Bar after hearing that Merrimack brought students last year to a Paint Bar in the area,” Bartolini shared. The artist who will be sharing her talents with Merrimack students is a friend of Bartolini’s, Ashley Baron. Baron teaches painting classes for a living in North Hampton, New Hampshire.

“I have taken a class with her before and thought it would be a fun activity to bring to campus,” Bartolini explained. This event is open to students 21 and over and will begin at 6 p.m. this Saturday.

Relay For Life is a 12-hour overnight event that raises money for cancer research that is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The significance of Relay For Life is to reflect a cancer patient’s battle with cancer. When the sun sets on the night of Relay, this is supposed to signify a patient being diagnosed with cancer. As the night goes on and it gets darker, it symbolizes the height of their battle and undergoing surgery. When 3 a.m. hits and Relayers are exhausted, this is supposed to signify cancer patients’ post-chemo treatment and how exhausted they are. When it’s 6 a.m. and the sun rises, Relay For Life is over, and this is the cancer patients going into remission and it’s no longer dark for them.

This year at Merrimack, Relay For Life will take place on April 4 to 5, and doors open at 5 p.m. in the MPR. This year’s Relay For Life theme is the 1990s.

At Relay, there will be fun and games, as well as a Luminaria ceremony to remember cancer patients fighting cancer as well honoring those lost.

Last year, Relay For Life at Merrimack raised $45,000 to go towards cancer research, and over 400 students and faculty participated. Legends of the Hidden Temple, a Mr. Relay competition, and a Photo Booth will be just some of the activities at Relay this year.

Bridget Gilroy, President of Live 2 Give, said, “Relay is such an amazing event because we are all there for the same reason — to finish the fight against a disease that has taken so many incredible people and has tested countless others.

“Not only is it an extremely fun night, but while we are having fun we are also celebrating the survivors who have fought arduous battles and the researchers and doctors who are helping to find cures and treatments,” Gilroy said. “We are remembering those who have fought and are currently fighting and throughout the whole night — we are fighting back against this horrible disease. It is an unfortunate truth that cancer has touched everyone’s lives in one way or another and to have us come together as a community to do our part to no longer have that truth be a reality, is truly phenomenal.”

Relay For Life has a goal of $50,000, which will go directly to the American Cancer Society for research, education, advocacy, and patient services. You can create or join a team, or join as a single participant by visiting Relayforlife.org/Merrimack.
Though this isn’t an ideal band to kick off Spring Weekend, students at Merrimack seem to be pleased with the fact that it’s a band they are actually familiar with (when compared to the 2012 concert’s Girl Talk).

Junior Brittany Hagopian said, “I like them (Plain White T’s) as a band, but not looking forward to them as a spring concert. I think their music is too boring. I want something that is more upbeat.”

It seems to be the general consensus on campus that this isn’t the right genre for a Spring Concert.

Hagopian also said, “I don’t remember being asked an opinion on what I would want as a Spring Concert or how much I would pay for tickets. I wouldn’t mind having to pay more for tickets knowing that it meant getting a better band. I will still probably go, and make the best of it. But it would be looked forward to a lot more if a livelier group were performing.”

More optimistic than Hagopian, senior Marissa Depaolo is excited about the concert. “It is nice to have my last concert at Merrimack as a group that is well known, with at least one song everyone can sing along to,” she said.

“I know that some people aren’t so excited about it, but the MPB worked hard on getting this for us, while having affordable ticket prices. Even though people may be complaining, everyone will definitely be having fun while we are there. It is a throwback to our younger years,” Depaolo said.

This concert may be a blast from the past, but it seems that as a whole, Merrimack students would be a bit more pleased having a band that we all knew and loved at one point in our youth.

MERRIMACK’S MOST INTERETING PERSON

Mike Ryan

James Sardella ‘15
Staff Writer

This issue’s Most Interesting Person is Mike Ryan. Mike graduated from Marshfield High School before making the decision to attend Merrimack as a business major. He hopes to one day work in marketing or find a job in higher education, perhaps as an advisor for student involvement at another college.

Since coming to Merrimack, Mike has gotten involved in a variety of organizations on campus. He was a team member for orientation his sophomore year, an orientation leader his junior year, and is going to be one of the four orientation coordinators in his upcoming senior year. For his junior year he applied for, and received, a position as a resident advisor for the new residence buildings.

Aside from these contributions, Mike has also been a faithful member of the Merrimack Programming Board (MPB). Mike has made himself quite the recognizable face around campus, whether it be promoting MPB events, welcoming incoming students as a member of the orientation staff, or keeping the peace in his residential area.

As someone who is so involved on campus, when asked what the best commitment he has made was, Mike stated, “Definitely orientation. You get the opportunity to meet so many new people and overall I think it is the most rewarding experience you can have.”

When questioned about why Mike decided to attend Merrimack in particular, he responded, “I liked the feel of the small school and the community it provides. After coming here I honestly couldn’t picture myself anywhere else because this place just feels like home.”

If you were to ask Mike what place on campus is most like home to him, he’d most likely tell you the third floor of the campus center because, “when you’re involved, you’re up there the most, but it’s OK because everyone is super friendly.”

Mike’s advice to any incoming students is, “Get involved. At Merrimack you can really sense the community the students provide to each another, but getting involved improves that experience and gets it to feel like home.”

Be on the lookout for Mike around campus whether he’s in between classes, promoting the latest MPB event, or heading up to the third floor of the Campus Center.

Many Call Concert Picks Great Big Disappointment

CONCERT
Continued from Page 1

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No ‘Doubt,’ Shanley Impresses Merrimack

Schuyler Watkins ’14
Associate Editor in Chief

The scene starts with uniformed children running into school, a Catholic school in the Italian and Irish part of the Bronx during the time of the Kennedy assassination. Like any other Catholic school at this time, nuns could be seen with black bonnets, priests were actively present with the parish and the school, and students made a ruckus — one in particular, John Patrick Shanley.

Some years later, Shanley used his knowledge of that very Catholic school in the Bronx and created a story that not only became widely successful on Broadway, but was later adapted for the silver screen.

“The nuns were based on nuns that I had, and the priest to some degree on a priest in that parish,” Shanley recalled.

The playwright attended a question and answer session with the Merrimack Onstagers, who presented Shanley’s Tony- and Pulitzer-winning “Doubt” at the Rogers Center Feb. 22 through 24. The main characters were portrayed by Kevin Welch as Father Flynn, Michaela Lonati as Sister Aloysius and Alexendra Lynch as Sister James.

“Doubt” is Shanley’s parable, following the life of a priest, his questionable relationship with a student, and a nun’s effort to shed light on justice. Sister Aloysius, played by Meryl Streep in the 2008 film adaptation, attempts to prove Father Flynn’s guilt.

Sister James (Amy Adams) tries to help Sister Aloysius, played by Meryl Streep in the 2008 film adaptation, attempts to prove Father Flynn’s guilt.

Shanley created a story that does not allow viewers to be satisfied. “Doubt” draws the audience in with its mystery: forcing one person to believe one thing, while another viewer may have different visions. Asked about truth and where the truth is in that story to be set free? The story does not set you free, it doesn’t let you have that pleasure.”

The uneasiness that spreads through the audience makes for discomfort; therefore, searching for an answer from Shanley could have put some of that discomfort behind the audience. However, the questions are not answered, and Shanley was not about to put any doubts about the outcome to rest, “That’s for you. That belongs to you.”

Above left: Father Rick Piatt, Father Ray Dlugos, professor Marguerite Kane, playwright John Patrick Shanley and professor Christine Hardway discuss Shanley’s play ‘Doubt.’ Above: Kevin Welch, Alexandrea Lynch and Michaela Lonati rehearse ‘Doubt’ in the Rogers Center.

Photos by Kevin Salemme
2012 Film Provides Playbook for Chemistry, Heartbreak

Ted Chen ‘16
Staff Writer

“Silver Linings Playbook” is the most remarkable romance movie from 2012. This film makes you feel happy and full of energy right after seeing it. Described as a love story of two “crazy” people, the film focuses on Pat and Tiffany, portrayed by Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, who share sad lives with emotional problems. Cooper and Lawrence portrayed their characters so well, they were nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actor/Actress for Leading/Supporting Role.

The film itself earned recognition after a nomination for Best Picture and Best Director.

Here’s how the story goes: Pat falls in love with Tiffany the day he meets her. As they discuss their anti-depression medicines at dinner when they first met, it is a “misery loves company” moment. Together, they understand and value each other for the pain they have gone through. After Pat goes home that night, he becomes restless, forcing him to find the wedding tape of him and his ex-wife to run away from the fact that he is in love with Tiffany.

Unlike most romantic comedies, “Silver Linings Playbook” shows us a comedic plot with a serious subplot. Tiffany thinks that they are the same type of person after she tells Pat about what she went through when her husband died. However, Pat thinks that she is way crazier than he is. Tiffany is heartbroken and angry by the sense of alienation that Pat gives her.

Although this movie is two years old, its story is one which should be told frequently. The beauty of the plot, as well as the chemistry between Bradley and Lawrence, engages the viewer, allowing him to escape from reality for a few hours.

LaRosa's in Andover a Hidden Gem

Alexandria Kasper '14
Staff Writer

Are you getting sick of the café food? Need a local eatery to try? Venture to downtown Andover and check out LaRosa’s, located on 3 Nard Street, Andover, just across the street from Orange Leaf.

LaRosa’s, founded by Paul LaRosa, prides itself on a combined 25 years of experience in the hospitality and food industry, allowing the small shop to add a creative twist on traditional lunch and dinner options.

This hidden gem features delicious items that can easily satisfy any food craving you may encounter during the day. The extensive menu features salads, pizza, pastas, sandwiches, and other prepared Italian meals. Their signature sandwiches include a Chicken Caprese sandwich, Shrimp Alla Siciliana, and my favorite, The Angry Sicilian, which is made of Mortadella, Cappicolla, Salami, Mozzarella, roasted red peppers, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, hots, and bal-samic dressing squeezed between two pieces of toasted Sccoli bread. The mouthwatering sandwich is huge, but I promise you, you will not want to leave anything on your plate!

To leave you further impressed, everything on the menu comes out fast and under $10. Treat yourself to lunch and check out the place that has visitors “coming back for more.”

Got Pics?
Send them to MCBeaconPics@gmail.com
The turmoil in Ukraine — precipitated by President Viktor Yanukovych’s snubbing of a European Union (EU) trade deal — exemplifies the still-fertile elements of nationalism and ideology in Eastern Europe.

Russia’s dispatching of troops to, in the words of Ukraine ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, “seize, block and control” governmental and military objects of Ukraine in Crimea, runs the risk of destabilizing Russia and Ukraine in war.

Hedging Your Corporate Bond Exposure

Vincent Bellino’15
Finance Editor

A corporate bond is a debt security that provides the issuing company with capital from investors as a means to finance various projects. In return, investors receive a stream of cash flows called coupon payments plus their initial investment (principal) at maturity.

Similar to how individuals are rated based on their FICO scores, a corporate bond is rated by agencies such as Moody’s, Fitch, or S&P to convey the credit-worthiness of the company. Bonds are categorized in two ways: investment grade and high yield. An investment grade bond is one that has a good credit rating (AAA) and a low risk of default, which will therefore pay a lower interest rate or coupon. These are fundamentally sound companies with positive cash flows that exceed their interest payment requirements.

A high yield bond also known as a “junk bond,” has a poor credit rating (D), with a relatively higher risk of bankruptcy. These are companies that are typically characterized as having less consistent cash flows or may be in more volatile industries such as telecommunications or energy.

So, how does one hedge exposure to a high-yield bond? Well, hedging is a way for an investor to reduce the risk of abnormal movements in one’s investment. Through financial engineering, the marketplace has a structured derivative called a credit default swap. A credit default swap (CDS) is essentially insurance on a company’s debt. It is a way to ensure that an investor will not completely lose his investment in the corporate bond in the event of default. They trade in the over-the-counter market, which is a marketplace without a central location allowing participants to trade with each other.

The basic dynamic of this complex credit derivative is as follows: An investor in a corporate bond buys a CDS. The investor pays annual payments to the CDS seller. In the event that the company defaults, the investor receives a payout on an agreed amount, based on the bond’s face value. If the company does not default, then the investor continues to pay the annual payments until its expiration. So, a prudent investor who is less risk averse may buy a credit default swap to hedge their exposure to a high yielding corporate bond.

Needed: Realism on Ukraine

The Beacon March 8, 2014

Roger McCormack

The Beacon Page 8

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When you go and watch the softball team this season, you should expect depth, leadership, and a group of experienced players both young and veteran alike. As the team heads out of the preseason and into conference play, a good vibe simply encapsulates them from any outside distraction.

"The mood and the vibe there excited the girls. They are excited about playing," second year coach Jim Sardello explains. "It’s always a great time of year because you know the possibilities are endless. We have really good leadership on our team, a great group of seniors and we expect their leadership to shine through on the field. We have a great group of young players as well and so the vibe is good. We get to go to Florida again (for Spring Break tournaments in Clermont, Fla.) and you know it’s been so cold here and so it’s exciting just to go back and get some weather above 60 degrees. We’re excited.

With the team’s home opener just days away, Cardello is excited to integrate his younger players into the lineup, though he admittedly turns to his upperclassmen for talent and leadership. Where ever he can plug holes through his underclassmen and recruiting classes is simply an added bonus.

“Certainly our returning players earned significant time last year,” Cardello said, “but we’ll also be playing (underclassmen) significant time this year. Regardless of their class, we typically when we’re recruiting feel like we are going to put the best nine players on the field on Opening Day. So from the standpoint of class, it doesn’t really matter to me. You like to have some experience and leadership and knowledge of the college level game as much as possible, but if you see the stats you know some of our freshmen got some significant playing time in our first five games so I think that the mix will play out throughout the year.”

One of those freshman, Kaleigh Finigan, started three games in the team’s first Florida road trip of the season, earning a .429 batting average and a .500 on-base percentage already. The infielder shows promise on a team already laden with talent.

Integrating the younger players will be key as they season rolls on. Despite an 0-5 start, Cardello is not concerned.

“We’ll go after it,” Cardello said. “You know we go out there every game with our best, we expect to put our best foot forward every time we step on the field and we can do that with a lot of depth.”

The Warriors open up conference play at Southern Connecticut State next week.

“We’ll be expecting to go down there and playing take two games. It’s just the matchup that can get this team starting on the right note,” Cardello explained. The Warriors split two games with the Owls last season, though both of these contests will be on the road. The Warriors hope to pick up their road record where it left off last season, as a 9-3-1 mark away from North Andover was near the top of the league.

Senior infielder Ashley Perry makes a play last season against LIU Post
Women’s Lax Coach’s First W, vs. Findlay

By Michael Perdie ’14  
Staff Writer

The Women’s Lacrosse team opened their 2014 season at home last Sunday topping the University of Findlay 16-15 (3OT). Sophomore Danielle Riley (West Point, N.Y.) scored the game-winning goal with 2:15 left in the third overtime. With the win, Michael Daly picked up his first career win as the head coach for the Warriors.

The Warriors were lead by sophomore Aubrie Stouffer (Souderton, Pa.) who finished the game with 3 goals and 9 points. Kayla Breton (Windham, N.H.) and Riley also added 3 goals a piece in the victory. The Warriors had six players score at least 2 goals, showing they have a balanced attack.

Cuming came up big in the clutch, saving three games during their weekend for the NE-10 Championship this year, as they were chosen to finish third in the Northeast-10 Conference Preseason Poll. After last year’s breakthrough season, Newton has high expectations for his team.

“We’re hoping to do very well this weekend. This weekend showed how much determination we have as a whole. We want to win for each other.”

As each game counts towards their overall record, Merrimack plans to take no days off in the process. In hopes of ending their season in North Carolina for the College World Series, the Merrimack baseball team is ready for any challenges they may face in the 2014 season.

Follow @MC_WarriorsBsb for live tweets from the official twitter account for the Merrimack baseball team.

Who To Look Out For This Season

Sophomore third baseman, Frank Crinella: After starting in 44 games last spring, Crinella was named All-Region and Northeast-10 Conference Rookie of the Year. With an impressive start to his collegiate career, Crinella is expected to exceed expectations this season. He concluded 2013 with 30 RBIs, and a .317 batting average. He is a force at the plate as well in the field, manning the hot corner with ease.

Junior pitcher, Joe Carnevale: A continued dominance on the mound, Crinella was named All-Region and Northeast-10 Conference Rookie of the Year. With an impressive start to his collegiate career, Crinella is expected to exceed expectations this season. He concluded 2013 with 30 RBIs, and a .317 batting average. He is a force at the plate as well in the field, manning the hot corner with ease.

Junior Frank Crinella fields a grounder at third

Mary Unis ’14  
Staff Writer

As the cold weather begins to subside and the snow slowly begins to melt, the Merrimack baseball team is ready for the Northeast-10 Conference championship game after finishing 5-11 last season. The Warriors are returning 11 players from last year, including 2 senior class members. With a young squad, the Warriors will rely on the leadership of tri-captains Hedden, Stouffer, and Guilia Palombo (Sandwich, Mass.) to make a run for the playoffs.

Coach Daly has high expectations for this year’s team as they aim for an appearance in the Northeast-10 Conference championship game

Inna Hedden will return to the Warriors’ lineup after starting 13 games last season with 166 saves for a .420 save percentage and a 14.91 GAA (Goals Against Average) including a season high 16 saves against Rollins. Stouffer is another key returner who posted 13 goals and 3 assists last season. Senior Dara Hayes (Calgary, Alberta) also returns as the workhorse for the Warriors’ midfield unit. There are high expectations for Hayes after tallying 2 goals, picked up 24 groundballs and had 14 caused turnovers.

There are also some new additions to the team that will play an immediate role this season. Freshman Claire Blomberg (Wading River, N.Y.) is expected to start on defense. While freshmen Megan Ferro (East Manlius, N.Y.) and Jordan Sullivan (Malden, Mass.) will have an instant impact on the attack. Brittany Sullivan (Norwood, Mass.) and Michela Salucci (Newton, Mass.) will also look to earn minutes for the Warriors.

At midfield, newcomers Charlotte Fitzgerald (Sudbury, Mass.) and Meghan Wiseman (Arlington, Mass.) hope to make an impact off the bench at the midfield position. They will be accompanied by veterans Christine Keenan (Byfield, Mass.) and Danielle Riley who were major contributors off the bench last season.

The Merrimack Women’s Lacrosse team will be back in action on Thursday, March 6 at Martone-Mejail Field against Grand Valley State (4-0).
Merrimack Seniors Skate for Final Time

Mathew Galvao '17
Staff Writer

The Merrimack men’s ice hockey team split its weekend series against Hockey East rival University of New Hampshire (UNH) last weekend. These were the first meetings all year for the two schools, and the series had playoff implications for both teams in the final weekend of the regular season.

On Friday night, the Warriors played what was one of their best overall efforts of the season, taking pucks and bodies to the net on three of the four goals that they scored in a 4-2 win over the Wildcats in the first of a back-to-back weekend series at Lawler arena.

The Warriors got off to a great start in Friday’s game with both teams getting into it physically. Though there was a lot of action in the first, the period ended scoreless. Heading into the second period, the Warriors looked to break the ice and managed to do so when junior defenseman Justin Mansfield drove hard to the net and jammed home a rebound to put Merrimack up 1-0 six minutes into the second period. Just five minutes later, sophomore Brian Christie notched a power play goal to put the Warriors up by two.

Headed into the third period, Merrimack looked to close out the game and take its third win in Hockey East this year. By the middle of the third UNH had tied the game 2 and were looking for the go-ahead goal. Just one minute after UNH scored their second goal, Warrior’s junior Quinn Gould tallied the Warriors eventual game winner. Classmate Connor Toomey would add an empty net goal in the final minute of the period to ice the game for the Warriors and give them their third victory in Hockey East.

Coach Mark Dennehy felt the team really got back to how they want to play. “It was,” Dennehy agreed, when asked if the team’s play matched its game plan. “I thought we did a pretty good job of getting pucks and bodies to the net. It was one of our more positive efforts. We kept trudging. There was a lot of energy on the bench. They didn’t need much coaching from me which is nice, because when they start coaching themselves that means some of it is starting to sink in.”

On Saturday night the Warriors honored their six seniors: captain Jordan Heywood (D), assistant captains Mike Collins (F), Rhett Bly (F) and Brendan Ellis (D), defenseman Tom McCarthy and goaltender Sam Marotta. All six would be playing their final game at Lawler Arena.

Dennehy commented on the lasting legacy of this senior class. “They are each individually wonderful people,” he said. “They’ve invested three and a half years to Merrimack hockey and so the coaching staff is grateful in that regard. But they all bring something to the table. We’re thankful they chose Merrimack and they each left an indelible mark.”

Unfortunately, UNH spoiled the senior night festivities when they took the 5-2 win to defeat Merrimack in their last home game of the season.

The Warriors got the early lead in the first when Gould scored his second goal of the weekend. However, things would not go well for the Warriors in the second period as UNH scored three goals – two in less than 10 seconds – in the second to give themselves a 3-1 lead.

The third would see the UNH add two more goals but Merrimack add one of their own with UNH taking the game by a score of 5-2.

Dennehy felt that his team didn’t capitalize on the chances that they had and that ultimately lead to the outcome of the game. “We’ve got to capitalize on our chances. We had a lot of chances that we got nothing out of,” he said. “You could see that when they [UNH] got their chances they ended up in the back of the net.”

Photos by Kelli Readey

MC to Battle Black Bears; Fans Busing to Orono

With the conclusion of its regular season, the Merrimack men’s ice hockey team is slated for a trip to Maine on Saturday for the Opening Round of the Hockey East Playoffs. The No. 11 seeded Warriors are slated to take on the No. 6 seeded Black Bears at Alfond Arena for the third time this season, with puck drop coming at 7:07 pm.

Although games will be televised locally on WBIN, the athletic department is offering a special package to see the game live. As has been the trend in recent seasons, Merrimack will provide transportation to and from the game. For $5, students get a bus ride to and from Maine, admission to the game, a free t-shirt, and a pregame party with food in Maine. The bus will return to Merrimack at the conclusion of the game.

“We’re trying to create a home field advantage,” Pat Spiegel, Director of Marketing and Ticketing told The Beacon. “At the end of the day the goal is to create a fun atmosphere. It’s all about making everything fun for the students. We’re not trying to break the bank and make it expensive for them, we just want it to be a fun experience. It’s all about the student experience and enhancing that. That’s what we’re all about.”

Merrimack previously played Maine in both the 2011 and 2012 Hockey East Quarterfinals. The Warriors swept the Black Bears in 2011 en route to a Hockey East Tournament Final and an NCAA berth, while the Warriors lost in three games the following season.

“I think it’s a fun place to play. I think our guys are looking forward to it. It’s a new season. (We’re) zero-zero-zero,” Dennehy said.

Merrimack was swept out of the playoffs last season in the quarterfinals at Boston University. Should the Warriors pull out a difficult road win, they will advance to face No. 1 seeded and No. 2 nationally ranked Boston College for a three-game quarterfinal series.

— Pat Bradley

Merrimack vs. Maine

• Played each other twice this year, both in Maine. Warriors lost both games 2-1 and 3-2.
• Battled in the 2011 HEA quarterfinals. Warriors swept both games 5-4 and 6-2.
• Rematched in 2012 HEA quarterfinals and lost in 3 games. The scores were 2-1 (Maine), 5-2 (Merrimack), 2-1 (Maine).
• Maine ranks 6th in HEA while Merrimack ranks 11th. Maine also ranks 20th nationally.
• Merrimack and Maine have played 6 one goal games in the past 9 meetings between the schools.
The men's lacrosse team opens the season ranked No. 8 in the country. They look to improve upon last year's finish, as the 13-3 Warriors won the Northeast-10 regular season crown, but fell short of their ultimate goal as they were eliminated in the conference semi-final match.

Boasting an impressive 10-1 mark in conference play, Merrimack seemed poised to win the Northeast-10 championship before they were upset by Le Moyne in the conference tournament. The Warriors fell behind early at Mar tone-Mejail Field, trailing 5-1 at half, and couldn't close that gap for the remainder of the match.

That would be the last collegiate match for Merrimack standouts Corey Lunney and Connor Reagan who are leaving some big shoes to fill. Lunney finished a spectacular career as the recipient of the United States Intercollegiate Coaching Association's (USICA) "Most Outstanding Player Of The Year" award. Reagan also picked up some prestigious hardware, as the USICA's "Outstanding Goalie" winner.

While Merrimack has graduated a number of the country's best seniors, they'll find continuity on the sideline in the face of seventh-year head coach Mike Morgan. The program's all-time winningest coach, Morgan has earned at least 11 victories in each of his last six seasons at the helm, and has proven to be one of the sharpest coaches in the NCAA.

And despite the personnel loss on the field, Morgan and co. will still be leaning heavily on veteran experience to find postsea-son success in the 2014 season. The Warriors open the season with three pre-season All-Americans on their roster, headed on attack by the explosive Jamie Shand. The Merrimack junior finished last season with 22 goals and 25 assists, and seems primed for a dominant 2014 campaign. According to Coach Morgan, Shand won't have to fill Lunney's shoes alone. He credited their team mentality.

"With the overall depth of our offensive I don't think he has to directly fill Corey (or Greg Melaugh's) shoes," Morgan said. "We are very balanced on offense and I think it will be a collective effort to replace those points and Jamie will be a big part of it."

Shand will be supported by midfielders and fellow pre-season All-American Mike Perdie. This senior was one of the league's most impactful players last spring. Perdie racked up 24 points while remaining stingy on defense, and was rewarded with NE-10 All-Conference honors for his efforts. He's been a constant presence for the Warriors, as the senior has only missed 3 games in his career at Merrimack. He also garnered high praise as a leader from Morgan.

"Mike plays very hard and knows our offense probably better than anyone. We expect him to be that leader for the younger offensive players to see the preparation and hard work he brings."

The Warriors defense will be anchored by their third pre-season All-American, Brandon Waiter. The Westport, Connecticut native excels at forcing turnovers, and was named the Northeast-10's Defensive Player of the Year last season. Waiter will be joined by defensive stalwart Jimmy Holland. The senior is a two-sport athlete - as he played football in addition to lacrosse and the middle-linebacker that boasts a 6-foot-1, 210 lb frame isn't afraid to impose his physicality upon unfortunate opponents.

Goal tenders may be the Warrior's deepest position this season, as there are three players capable of winning the starting job. At this point Morgan acknowledged, "currently we are splitting Morgan Green and freshman Dom Madonna in net. Sean Payne has played well and isn't far behind. It's a very good competition and I know they are all striving to be our full time starter."

The Warriors' first major test looks to come on March 9th, as they'll travel to Maryland to take on a formidable Lime stone squad. The Saints open the season ranked 5th overall, but the game will be played on a neutral site, as Limestone's campus is located in South Carolina. Knocking off a top-five team would be a huge confidence boost for a Merrimack club with a promising season ahead of them.

Chris Mason '14
Staff Writer

Expectations High for 8th-Ranked Warriors

Jamie Shand will be a 'big part' of MC's success in 2014.

Photos by Lance Hill