

Connections

A newsletter for

Merrimack College

Parents and families

Dear Parents,

The Office of Enrollment and Student Services is pleased to provide parents a monthly online newsletter to better inform you of some happenings, deadlines and accomplishments that may be of interest to you about Merrimack. If you have any questions on these announcements, or any other business or personal matters, please contact me at 978-837-5106 and I will try to answer any concerns you may have related to your son's or daughter's (or both) experience at the college.

*Mary Lou Retelle
Vice President for
Enrollment & Student
Services*

CONTACT US

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Student takes the podium for First Lecture

By Heather Notaro

First there was the last, now there is the first. First lecture, that is. The First Lecture will be delivered by a student who will speak about his passions, interests and what matters most to him at this point in life. It was initiated by students' desire to further contribute to discussions on campus about values, meaning, and purpose in life. Senior Brian Caira will present the First Lecture on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Cascia Hall.

"I think this experience can be rewarding and fulfilling for the entire Merrimack College community," said Caira. "More significantly, this event will hopefully bring this campus closer together, even if it just is for one hour. Merrimack prides itself on having a very close community, and I think through the First Lecture, this community will be highlighted and allowed to shine."

Caira's topic of discussion will remain confidential, much like the Last Lecture, where a faculty member speaks on a topic of their interest as if it's the last time. Last Lecture will continue to take place in the fall, while First Lecture will take place in the spring.

The First Lecture was created by the Mission Effectiveness Council – a campus group charged with inviting the College community to a deeper and more authentic experience of its mission.

"What I find most exciting about the First Lecture is that it was entirely initiated by students wanting to claim their voice as significant and important, showing a passion and desire to share the fruits of their reflections on life," said Rev. Ray Dlugos, O.S.A., Vice President for Mission and Ministry. "I have been very impressed by the seriousness with which the students have engaged in thinking through what they want this to be for the community. It is an expression of their willingness to be serious participants in the wider cultural conversation about what matters most."

C O N N E C T I O N S

Residence Life Information

Housing selection for the 2010-2011 academic year will occur during the third week of March. A \$500 housing deposit must be made to the Bursar's office by Friday, February 26th for students to be eligible to participate in the room selection process. In addition, all medical/special housing requests are due to the Residence Life office by Friday, February 26th.

Residence halls will close at 7pm on Friday, March 5th for spring break and reopen on Sunday, March 14th at 10am. Students requesting to remain on campus during the spring break period (due to student teaching, internship, etc.) need to come to the Residence Life office by Friday, February 26th to make this request.

Halls will close again at 7pm on Tuesday, March 30th for Easter break and reopen on Monday, April 5th at 10am. Students requesting to remain on campus during the Easter break period (due to student teaching, internship, etc.) need to come to the Residence Life office by Wednesday, March 24th to make this request.

Become a "fan of" Merrimack College Residence Life! We've created a "fan of" page on Facebook and encourage all students and families to join. We will use this as an additional source of information dissemination and include reminders of important dates as it pertains to living on campus. Look for the Merrimack Warrior logo to receive easy access to updates and important information!

Athletic Update

The Merrimack Athletic Department announced an agreement with Andover Television. Virtually all of the remaining basketball and hockey games will air on tape delay on Andover TV, which appears locally on Comcast and Verizon FIOS. Log on to www.merrimackathletics.com for complete listings.

The Merrimack men's basketball team won 11 straight games, the longest winning streak under 30-year head coach Bert Hammel. Senior captain Darren Duncan moved into second place all-time in the Northeast-10 and 11th in the NCAA Division II history in assists and became the Northeast-10's all time leader in free throws in a career.

As part of the Lawler Completion Project, new LED graphic scoreboards were unveiled before Merrimack defeated Providence 2-1 in overtime to improve to 8-1 at home. The Warriors have the fewest home losses in the country.

Keohan Book Lecture

The Sixth Annual Robert D. Keohan Book Lecture will feature a lecture by Professor of English Steven Scherwatzky, Ph.D. entitled, "Angels and Demons: Milton's *Paradise Lost* in Eighteenth Century England." The Keohan Lecture Series and Book fund was established in 2005 through the generosity of Associate Professor of English Robert (Bud) Keohan, who has been teaching at Merrimack College since 1949. A special or rare book is added to the collection each year, which is housed in the English Department. The lecture will be held on Friday, February 19, at 3:00 p.m. in Sullivan Hall, room 205. All are welcome.

C O N N E C T I O N S

Career Services Information

The most often used phrase I hear from students in thirteen years of working in Career Services is “I’m not sure what I want to do”. I feel that one of the reasons for this dilemma is that many students often have little or no idea about the extent of their particular skill set. Sometimes because they are so good at a specific ability they feel (in their own minds) it can’t really be a talent.

Peter Voight, Career Counselor and writer and publisher of Campus Career Counselor has an interesting group workshop technique that he utilizes. He simply asks the student to get out their cell phones and to make a two minute call to someone who knows them well and ask that person “What’s something I’m really good at?” The vast majority of the students in the workshop called a parent; followed in order by a close friend, brother or sister and in fourth place a former work supervisor. The two minute concept encouraged the person being called to share the first strength that comes to mind and not over think the question.

Perhaps you as parents can take the initiative the next time your son or daughter calls, texts, tweets or emails...and mention what you have always thought he/she was good at and might use this strength in potential career opportunities. Also you may wish to suggest that asking other individuals they trust and respect this same “What am I good at” question will be valuable. Even if the exercise does not translate into a specific ability he/she possesses.

Something Fun to Do!!

Ski Trip to Smugglers Notch - February 26-28, 2010

Trip includes transportation, lift tickets for Friday and Saturday and overnight accommodations.

Cost for the trip will be in \$135-150 range.

If interested \$50 deposit is due to Nick Lowery in Student Involvement

Space is limited so sign up ASAP