



# MERRIMACK COLLEGE



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## **Fake News: Teaching in the "Post-Truth" Era with Dr. Melissa (Mish) Zimdars, Assistant Professor of Communication**

**Tuesday, February 14**

**12:00-1:30**

**Murray Lounge**

This lunch session focuses on navigating and teaching about the credibility of online sources in the "post-truth" era, which is characterized in part by "fake news" and vast networks of misinformation. We will generate ideas for maintaining openness, inclusiveness, and balance in the classroom in relation to partisan misinformation in the "news." We will also consider professorial expertise in a time when our credibility is being questioned as much as journalists, whether socially, politically, or just on campus.

Together we'll consider several questions, including how to construct spaces privileging well-researched argumentation when all information is seemingly up for debate and/or viewed as being on an equal playing field? How do we most effectively explain the differences between personal political bias and critical scholarship or teaching? Finally, how do we adapt tools for media literacy and identifying credible sources of information to account for these changes and challenges? Staff from McQuade Library will be available to answer questions and share new approaches and resources available to faculty at the College.



**Register Now**

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## **Newly Tenured Faculty Reception**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Merrimack Club, Sakowich Campus Center

5:00-7:00 p.m.

RSVP to Vicki Bianchini

[bianchiniv@merrimack.edu](mailto:bianchiniv@merrimack.edu)

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## **Provost Innovation Fund: Deadline to submit a proposal**

**Employing Academic Technology to Enhance Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

The Office of the Provost is now accepting applications. Click on the button below for more details.

**Provost Innovation Fund**

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## **McQuade Library Acquisitions**

McQuade Library has added 3 new online databases and several new titles to our collection of over 50 magazines on Flipster.



### **Counseling and Therapy in Video**

These videos provide "a first-hand look at the realities of working with clients and the challenges associated with putting theoretical concepts into practice. These collections provide a thorough grounding in dozens of therapeutic methods and diagnoses, insight into the human condition, and training in skills such as reflection and empathy while working with specific populations such as veterans and teens."

## Nutrition Reference Center™

**Nutrition Reference Center** provides trusted sources for nutritionists and dietitians on all aspects of nutrition: foods, diseases, skills, guidelines, patient education and more. Sources include journals, books, and CINAHL documents.



### **International Medieval Bibliography**

Search a comprehensive, current bibliography of articles in journals and more published worldwide on all aspects of the medieval period. Use the [Journal Finder](#) and the [NOBLE catalog](#) to locate full text of specific items.



### **Flipster**

We have added more magazines to Flipster allowing you to browse issues of 58 magazines, all online, or download an entire issue to the Flipster app on your mobile device for offline reading - perfect for long bus, car and plane rides.

New magazines include: America, ARTForum International, Communication Arts, Biblical Archaeology Review, Macworld, New Republic, and Yes! These join favorite titles from Businessweek and Inc, to the Atlantic and New Yorker, Newsweek and Time, Discover and Science News, to Esquire and Sports Illustrated, and Vogue and Yoga.

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## **Updates from the Academic Technology Team**

Our goal is to standardize the user experience in the classrooms; therefore, the Academic Technology Team along with Information Services will be installing Apple TVs in all classrooms across campus. The AirServer Software installed in Tier III classrooms will be uninstalled. Users with iOS devices and MacBooks that support AirPlay will be able to mirror their devices wirelessly using the Apple TVs. Users who have Windows-based laptops can continue to display their laptops using the cables available at the teacher podium.

This project consists of retrofitting the Apple TVs with the existing technology in those areas and will need to be scheduled when classes are not in session. We anticipate this project to be completed over the summer break.

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## **CETL: Course Design Tips**

This week's tip: ***Creating Contingency Plans***

To keep learning active and moving along during times of school-wide closures, inclement weather, or when attending professional conferences, consider the following strategies for creating learning continuity:

- Asynchronous Activities: Use the features in your LMS/CMS of choice. Post resources and activities for students to review: Ted Talks or other educational videos, narrate your PowerPoint/Keynote/Slides lecture, or suggest a current event around your topic and start an online discussion.
- Synchronous Activities: Host a virtual class by using Google Hangouts or Zoom Conferencing. You can video conference with students (Hangouts up to 10 participants, Zoom up to 50), have unlimited group conversations, you can also share your screen or ask your students to share theirs.

For more ideas on pedagogical tech integration, attend the upcoming "Heat Up Your Teaching" faculty demo days on February 22 & 23rd. See below for more information.

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## **Guided Meditation Sessions**

**every Monday**

**12:00 - 12:20 PM**

**Sullivan Hall, Room 205**

With support from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Dr. Christina Hardway from the Department of Psychology will be offering 20 minute guided meditations on campus at noon every Monday this semester.

No formal meditation experience or equipment is required. There is no need to register in advance; feel free to drop in if you are interested. Please direct all questions or inquiries to [hardwayc@merrimack.edu](mailto:hardwayc@merrimack.edu) or [nielsenk@merrimack.edu](mailto:nielsenk@merrimack.edu)

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## **Other Events this Week**

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### **February 16th (and every Wednesday)**

**Open Office Hours with the Provost**

**8:30 - 10:00 AM**

**Provost's Suite, Austin Hall**

The Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop-in every Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Whether you have a specific topic or just want to say "hello," all faculty are welcome to visit.

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## February 18th (and every Friday)

Open Office Hours with the Melissa Siegel

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Provost's Suite, Austin Hall

Melissa Siegel, Director of Sponsored Programs, will hold hours in the Office of the Provost every Friday from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. This is your opportunity to stop by with any and all questions about sponsored activities, programs, or grants. Please e-mail [siegelm@merrimack.edu](mailto:siegelm@merrimack.edu) to set up an appointment or just plan on swinging by to say "hello." Melissa is excited to learn more about you and your teaching, scholarship and research interests.

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## February 19th

Silent Witness: Reception and Artist Talk with Nancy Wynn and John Bizis

1:00-3:00 PM

McCoy Gallery

From more information, visit the [McCoy Gallery](#) website

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## Future Events

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## Heat up Your Teaching - Live

Hold the Date: February 22nd and 23rd

Watch faculty show off their contingency plans and share ideas for increasing student engagement! Staff from the CETL and Academic Technology will be on hand to assist. Be sure to check out the *Play with Tech* table to draw with Apple's Pencil, try out a document camera, or see what's new in storage. *Learn about Augmented Reality*. Don't miss this one. Sessions will be continuous from 11 - 2 with lunch included and lots of tech items to be raffled!

[Register Here](#)

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## Five Minutes and a Mic

Thursday February 23, 4:00 pm

The Writers House

No notes, no slides. Just Merrimack professors talking *very briefly* about the work they do and why they love it. With Rodrigo Bandeira de Mello, Susan Marine, Ryan Spalding, Rory Tannebaum, Joe Vogel, and Doug White.

Sponsored by the Writers House and CETL.

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## 2016-17 Reel Engagement: Screening of BRONX PRINCESS

Daughter of African Immigrants Defies and Rediscovered Her Royal Roots

Monday, February 27th

5:30 p.m. Stevens Theatre, Cushing Hall



Rocky is the daughter of a Ghanaian immigrant owner of a Bronx beauty shop. She's bright, vivacious, popular and poised to graduate from high school and be the first woman in her family to attend college — on a full scholarship at that. She's also willful, disrespectful and determined to leave the Bronx behind. In the summer between high school and college she travels to Ghana to visit her father, who is a traditional chief of the Ga people.

As captured in the POV (Point of View) documentary, Rocky imagines the trip as the first chapter in a new life of freedom, but the daily demands of social custom in Ghana and the hierarchical respect conflict with Rocky's notions of freedom and independence.

The 38 minute documentary follows Rocky as she faces the contradictions in her own thinking and begins to take a more mature view of the tension between family demands individual aspirations.

The first 20 attendees get a REEL Engagement tee-shirt.

The REEL Engagement, International Documentary Film Series is sponsored by the Office of Global Education.

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## CETL Book Group Call

*Minds on Fire* by Mark C. Carnes

**Group Facilitator: Dr. Sally Shockro, Associate Professor of History**

[Minds on Fire](#) explores the value of role-immersion games in learning and seeks to answer the question, "Why are so many students intellectually disengaged?" Author Mark Carnes argues that we can channel students' competitive and sometimes "mischievous" impulses into deep learning experiences through the use of role-playing pedagogies. Filled with concrete examples of how this innovative method is deployed for maximum benefit, this book advocates for transformative learning experiences that affect students' motivation to learn and their overall quality of learning.

Registrants will receive a free copy of the book (please indicate preference for e-Pub or hard copy on registration form). Bi-monthly Lunch meetings will begin Tuesday, March 7. **Please register by February 17.**

**Register Now**

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## Save the Dates: Commencement Weekend

**Friday, May 19, 2017**

**Graduate Commencement Exercises**

6:00 PM Merrimack Athletics Complex

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**Legacy Reception**

11:00 AM - Cascia

**Honors Convocation**

1:00 PM - Merrimack Athletics Complex

**Baccalaureate Mass**

4:00 PM - Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher

**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

**Undergraduate Commencement**

10:00 AM - Merrimack Athletics Complex

For more information, please visit the [Commencement](#) homepage.

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